

Iraq sends messages to Gulf states

RIVADH (AP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on Tuesday paid lightning visits to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to deliver messages from President Saddam Hussein to their rulers. Mr. Aziz apparently was making the trips to explain Baghdad's political and military strategy in the conflict with Iran. Other Iraqi envoys were touring other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, whose heads of state are holding their annual summit conference on Saturday in Riyadh, with the developments of the Iran-Iraq war at the top of their agenda. The envoys left Baghdad after an overnight joint meeting of Baghdad's executive and party leadership under the chairmanship of the Iraqi president. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the meeting dealt with the latest developments of the international situation and those related to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in light of the outcome of the superpower summit. Diplomatic sources said Tuesday's Iraqi warplane attack on four supertankers at Iran's Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz (See story below) was part of the Iraqi strategy to create pressure for action by the international community on getting the resolution implemented.

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King named 'Man of the Year'

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Egyptian Arabic daily Al-Ahram has named His Majesty King Hussein as "the Man of 1987" in view of his King's untiring efforts to unify Arab ranks and his success in clearing Arab atmospheres and laying the foundations of Arab solidarity. In a special supplement issued on Tuesday, Al-Ahram said King Hussein was behind the success of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last month. The paper described the Amman summit as one of the most remarkable events in the Arab arena that took place in 1987.

Sharaa in Iran

VICOSIA (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa arrived in Tehran on Tuesday. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Vicosia, said Mr. Sharaa met with Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi and gave details of their talks.

Mitterrand arrives in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Djibouti on Tuesday for a 4-hour visit, the first by a French head of state since the small Red Sea state became independent from France in 1977. Mr. Mitterrand, accompanied by a high-level delegation including Defence Minister Andre Giraud, flew into Djibouti's Ambouli airport aboard an Air France Concorde, escorted by five French air force Mirage-3C fighters. The French president was welcomed by Djiboutian President Hassan Gouled Aptidon and other government leaders.

Yemeni leader visiting Pakistan

SLAMABAD (R) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah al-Ahmed has talks on Tuesday with Pakistani President Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. No details of their discussions were made public. A Pakistani government statement said they covered matters of mutual interest, particularly the strengthening of bilateral relations. Speaking at a dinner later, Mr. Saleh said his talks with General Zia covered issues of international and regional importance, "according to the official Pakistani news agency PPP. The North Yemeni leader arrived earlier for a three-day visit.

Syria calls for Arab support in defence against Israel

AMASCUS (R) — Syria called on all Arab states on Tuesday to be ready to defend it against Israeli attack and urged them to back the use of force against the Jewish state. "The big challenge facing the Arab Nation in this dangerous phase requires more than ever the return of Arab solidarity to armed struggle against the Zionist enemy," a statement from the ruling Arab Baath Party said.

King, Gorbachev discuss peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein held talks in Moscow on Tuesday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that during the three-hour meeting, the King and Mr. Gorbachev emphasised the need for ending the seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq through stepping up international efforts to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. The two leaders also agreed on the urgent need to resolve the Middle East problem through convening an international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Petra said.

His Majesty voiced Jordan's appreciation of Mr. Gorbachev's efforts that culminated in the superpower agreement to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles. The agreement was signed by Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan at a summit in Washington on Dec. 8.

The King's talks with the Soviet leader on the Gulf war coincided with a call by a senior Soviet official for a special meeting of the military chiefs of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to hammer out a compromise approach to the Iran-Iraq war.

Soviet leader hints at support for arms embargo on Iran

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev indicated on Tuesday that Moscow could be ready to consider the imposition of an arms embargo against Iran in line with U.N. efforts to bring an end to the Gulf war.

Soviet Television said the issue of the Iran-Iraq war and the possible imposition of a U.N. arms embargo had been raised during the talks in Moscow between His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Gorbachev. "The Soviet Union, continuing to work for the implementation of Resolution 598, is not against examining this question in the U.N. Security Council. But there are doubts whether those who call for the embargo and at the same time were caught secretly supplying arms to Iran would observe it," the television quoted Mr. Gorbachev as saying.

The Soviet news agency TASS quoted Mr. Gorbachev as telling the King that "every means" should be used for ending the war. "Clear-cut and concrete directives have been given to this effect to the Soviet representative at the United Nations," he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky told a press conference that the Soviet government would put forward a proposal for such a meeting, which will bring together the military chiefs of the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France. The proposed meeting, Mr. Petrovsky said, can work out a compromise solution backed by the Soviet Union that will invoke

sanctions against Iran for its refusal to accept Resolution 598 and at the same time replace foreign warships in the Gulf with a U.N. naval task force.

It was not immediately known whether the Soviet proposal was discussed by the King and Mr. Gorbachev during their talks on Tuesday.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Jordanian Air Force Commander Brigadier General Ihsan Shurud, and the assistant chief of planning and electronic warfare, began their state visit to the Soviet Union on Monday.

The King, accompanied by Queen Noor and the Jordanian delegation, visited the Lenin Mausoleum and the Unknown Soldier's Monument and laid

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Arabs, undaunted by massive Israeli show of force, escalate violent protests

Death toll mounts • Protesters attack Israeli army post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite a massive show of force by the Israeli army aimed at quelling Palestinian demonstrations in the occupied territories, the violence showed no signs of abating Tuesday as Israeli troops shot and killed an Arab protester and wounded at least seven others.

Two other Palestinians also died of wounds suffered in a clash with troops on Monday, bringing the official death toll since Dec. 1 to 22.

Israeli troops fired on protesters who burned tyres, erected barricades and hurled firebombs and stones in villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the Jabalya refugee camp,

a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism on the outskirts of Gaza City, a large group of protesters chanting anti-Israeli slogans attacked a military post with rocks, an army official said. The soldiers opened fire, killing one protester and wounding three, he said.

Palestinian reports identified the dead protester as Khalid Shakel Hameid, 17, a Jabalya resident.

In other incidents, hospital officials said a 10-year-old girl was shot in the lung as she collected laundry on the roof of home in the West Bank village of Yatta near Hebron. The Palestine Press Service said a 13-year-old boy was also wounded. The army said two protesters were wounded in Yatta.

Others were wounded in the West Bank towns of Ithna and Jenin.

The continued protests appeared to thwart a new strategy by Israeli officials, who dispatched hundreds of extra troops into the occupied territories Tuesday in an attempt to calm the protest.

"We believe more troops and more presence have a calming effect," an army spokeswoman said before the violence began.

The Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who toured the Gaza Strip Tuesday, staunchly defended the army's use of force and vowed tougher measures.

Rabin also said Israel would step up measures such as arrests, detentions without trial and expulsions.

Israel has come under a hail of international criticism for its policy in the occupied territories.

A foreign ministry official said Tuesday authorities had obtained film from a European network showing an Arab strapped to the front of an army jeep, apparently to prevent stoning or firebomb attacks. He said authorities were seeking those responsible and suggested they would face "disciplinary" action.

Israeli officials were most disturbed by a sympathy strike staged by the 750,000 Arabs in Israel. The one-day strike turned violent in normally peaceful towns and undermined the alliance between Israeli Arabs and the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Iraqi long-range blitz leaves 4 supertankers ablaze at Larak

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi jet fighters Tuesday bombed and set ablaze four supertankers, including the world's largest, in a long-range raid on Iran's Larak Island off terminal in the Strait of Hormuz.

Twenty-three tankers or freighters have been hit this month by the two warring sides in the worst phase of the Iran-Iraq "tanker war."

The four "motherships" hit in the raid included the biggest tanker, the 564,739-ton Seawise Giant, said Gulf-based shipping executives and the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit.

The three other stricken vessels were identified as the 392,985-ton Cypriot-flag White Rose, the 411,508-ton Liberian-flag World Petrobras, and the 457,927-ton

British-flag Burmah Enterprise. Shipping executives, quoted by AP, said at least three of the four tankers sustained extensive damage and unspecified casualties in the early afternoon attacks.

The owners of the Burmah Enterprise said in London that the Iraqi bombing started a small fire on deck that was quickly put out, and there were no deaths or serious injuries among the 35 crew.

It was the second attack on the Seawise Giant, which was hit by the Iraqis last October in another long-range raid on Larak.

"The Iraqi aircraft travelled 1,200 kilometres, stabbed through Iranian defences and unleashed the wrath of their shells on floating oil storage tanks," the Iraqi high command said in a

communique broadcast by Baghdad Radio.

It said the Iraqi "bombs fell directly on these floating tankers and ravaged them, set them on fire, and left them under thick clouds of smoke."

On the ground warfront, a military spokesman in Baghdad said Iraqi troops killed at least 200 Iranians and wounded many more in repulsing an attack on Monday on the border some 120 kilometres east of the capital.

The attack followed two Iranian assaults on Saturday night and early Monday further to the south, east of the provincial centre of Misan (Al Amarah).

Iraq said on Monday night the Iraqis had lost more than 3,200 killed or wounded, while Iraqi casualties were given as only 40.

U.S. voices unusual criticism of Israel

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States called on Tuesday for an end to violence on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in a statement that was unusually critical of Israel.

"We view the continuing violence in the occupied territories with serious concern," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, who added that President Ronald Reagan was personally involved in efforts to end it.

The wave of anti-Israeli protests have left 22 people dead in the last two weeks, according to official Israeli figures.

"It is time for both sides to step back from confrontation before there are more tragic casualties," said Fitzwater, who condemned "violent demonstrations and 'riots' on the one side" and "harsh security measures and excessive use of live ammunition on the other."

His statement strongly suggested that the 20-year-old Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was at the heart of the problem.

"The effects of the occupation are not felt in the territories alone. They also damage the self-respect and world opinion of the Israeli people," the presidential spokesman said.

Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan was monitoring the situation very carefully and had been in communication "with Israel and some of the Arab nations."

He told reporters the U.S. was also in touch with Palestinian

Sudan calls up reserves, Page 2.

(Continued on page 3)

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His Majesty King Hussein with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Tuesday.

Regent and Saudi leader discuss Arab situation and Palestinian protests



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz on Tuesday (Petra photo).

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia paid a brief working visit to Jordan on Tuesday during which he and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, reviewed the recent developments in the region and means to further consolidate Arab solidarity.

The Saudi leader's visit was the last leg of a trip he undertook in a bid widely seen as a concerted Saudi effort to speed up the process of normalisation of relations between Iraq and Syria and probe means to settle differences between Syria and Egypt.

Prince Abdullah arrived in Amman from Cairo after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He was received upon arrival by Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Mohammad and senior officials including Cabinet members. The Regent and Prince Abdullah went into a closed meeting immediately and the focus of their discussions dealt with the current issues in the region and the recent developments on the Arab and Islamic arena, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Later, the Regent and Prince Abdullah had an enlarged meeting which was attended by deputy chief of the Saudi National Guard Abdul Aziz Al Tuweijri and Court Minister Adnan Abu

Odeh. Topics raised during the meeting tackled developments in the Arab World in light of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last month.

Petra said Prince Hassan and Prince Abdullah expressed their satisfaction with the "positive trends of Arab relations" and emphasised the determination of His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz to continue efforts aimed at further uniting Arab ranks and enhancing the basis of Arab solidarity.

The Regent and Prince Abdullah also discussed the "important dimensions" of the ongoing Arab protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Tracing the reasons which led to the protests in the occupied territories, both leaders said the uprising was a natural Palestinian response to Israel's "iron fist" policies.

Prince Hassan also hosted a luncheon in honour of the Saudi guest.

Prince Abdullah was accompanied by an official delegation comprising the chief of the crown prince's diwan, Nasser Al Rajihi, Abdul Mohsen bin Abdul Aziz, advisor to the crown prince, Hamad Al Hamoudi, private secretary to the crown prince, and Mohammad Al Tbeish, chief assistant at the protocol department.

The Saudi crown prince was accorded an official welcoming and farewell ceremony at the Marka airport including a 19-gun salute.

Over 2,000 believed dead in Philippines ferry disaster

MANILA (Agencies) — Fishermen dragged a four-year-old boy from shark-infested Philippine waters on Tuesday two days after a ferry carrying him and more than 2,000 others sank in the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster, officials said.

The boy, found clinging to a piece of wood off the coast of the central island of Mindoro, brought to 27 the number of survivors from Sunday night's accident.

Almost all aboard were feared dead after the Dona Paz ferry and a tanker collided, burst into flames and sank.

"It's a miracle. It's beyond imagination that he survived. Only God knows how," said Antonio Babies of the Manila rescue coordination centre. He said rescuers had confirmed a

report from the local governor's office that the boy had been found.

Jose Dino, radio operator in the governor's office, told AP that the boy was conscious and recounted how his father had placed him on the timber after the Dona Paz sank.

Twenty-six others were rescued by a passing vessel soon after the Dona Paz and the tanker Victor sank in flames.

Eight bodies had washed up on Mindoro Island. Officials were having trouble identifying them because they had decomposed, reports said.

President Corason Aquino, in her first public statement on the accident, called it a "national tragedy of harrowing proportion."

She promised government

assistance to victims and their families, called on wealthy Filipinos to donate to a special relief fund and ordered an investigation into the accident.

"Our sadness is all the more painful because the tragedy struck with the approach of Christmas," Mrs. Aquino said in a statement.

The government's marine board of inquiry said hearings on the accident would begin next Monday.

More than 2,000 people including hundreds of children, may have died when the Dona Paz, packed with poor Filipinos travelling to Manila for Christmas, sank late on Sunday night.

The Manila rescue coordination centre said hundreds of victims had probably been trapped in the Dona Paz.

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S. Arabia rebukes Iran for rejecting peace overtures

King Fahd wants Gulf free from foreign intervention

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday rebuked Iran for rejecting Iraq's peace overtures, and insisted that the Gulf region be free from foreign intervention.

"Peace and stability in the Gulf are the responsibility of the Gulf peoples, and this can only be attained by developing indigenous potentials that are capable of facing all changes" precipitated by the war in the region, he told the official Saudi Press Agency in an interview.

King Fahd was obviously alluding to the presence of U.S., Soviet, British and other navy units in the Gulf waters.

Saudi Arabia is the United States' staunchest Arab friend. But the Saudi monarch is known to prefer that all foreign powers, including the United States, stay away from the troubled region.

Iran and Iraq have been at war since 1980. The Tehran government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has made the removal

of the Iraqi government and the branding of Baghdad as the aggressor as a condition to end the war.

Saudi Arabia has been at loggerheads with Iran over its avowed objective of "exporting" Khomeini's Islamic Revolution to Arab countries along the Gulf region.

The United States sent warships to the region mainly at Kuwait's behest, to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers refueled with the U.S. flag against attacks by Iranian gunboats. U.S. Navy ships escort the U.S.-flag Kuwaiti tankers throughout the Gulf.

King Fahd praised the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as a solidarity framework for the economic integration and combined defence of its six member coun-

tries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

The GCC is to convene its regular annual summit conference in Riyadh on Dec. 26, when the leaders are to examine the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq conflict and its spillovers on the Gulf Arab countries.

The GCC countries, ostensibly neutral in the protracted war, have been suffering on account of frequent Iranian attacks on Gulf tanker lanes.

The Tehran leadership has threatened to make the Gulf shipping routes insecure for all countries of the region, unless Iraq ceased its air attacks on Iran's tanker lanes.

King Fahd praised Iraq for accepting the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for a negotiated end to the Gulf war.

"But Iran bears the responsibility and consequences of insisting to carry on this war," the king told the agency.

'Arms sales to Iran continued under Chirac'

PARIS (R) — Secret French arms sales to Iran have apparently continued in the 21 months since Prime Minister Jacques Chirac took office, despite government pledges to the contrary, Le Monde newspaper said on Tuesday.

The daily said an investigation in Portugal by a team of reporters

indicated weapons and explosives exported to that country in 1986 and 1987 were funnelled instead to Tehran.

Two French companies already accused of arms trafficking, Luchaire Sa and state-owned National Powder and Explosives Company (SNPE), supplied Iran by using false end-user certi-

icates giving the destination of the munitions as Portugal, the paper said.

The allegations follow weeks of damaging political scandal for France's opposition Socialists, accused of dabbling in arms sales to Iran while at the helm of government from early 1981 until the conservative electoral victory.

At one point in the living room of the apartment, the host-

ages asked this same guard when they might be allowed to go home. He replied, in English, "maybe today, maybe tomorrow, maybe never," pointing the silver-coloured handgun at the host-

ages as he spoke.

Leaving through a copy of Newsweek magazine while in custody, the hostage spotted Yousif in a group photograph of the Jordanian airliner hijackers, the brief said.

The Newsweek photograph showed the hijackers standing in front of the wreckage of the Jordanian plane, which "the witness had earlier observed on the runway at Beirut International Airport," according to the government's memo.

"The witness annotated the magazine with his identification of the defendant in that group photograph and turned it over to the FBI when he was first interviewed on July 1, 1985, immediately upon his release from

captivity," prosecutors said. A member of the Shi'ite Amal militia, Yousif bragged to TWA hostages that he had blown up the Jordanian aircraft, according to the court papers.

The TWA hostages were held in apartments throughout Beirut until they were escorted to the Syrian border by Shi'ite Amal militiamen and released in Damascus.

Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal militia and Lebanon's minister of justice, has taken credit for negotiating the release of the 39 TWA hostages, who were among 153 passengers and crew members aboard the plane when it was seized. Mr. Berri had said the hostages were under his custody during the negotiations.

The Justice Department has previously revealed that Yousif told FBI agents that Mr. Berri ordered the hijacking of the Jordanian airliner to pressure the Arab League to move Palestinian refugees from Lebanon.

Yousif was arrested in September after he was lured onto a FBI-chartered yacht in international waters off Cyprus.

2 passengers identify hijack suspect

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two passengers held hostage in Beirut after the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner identified Lebanese suspect Fawaz Yousif as one of their guards, the government has said.

Yousif is in U.S. custody on charges he led the June 11, 1985, hijacking of another plane, a Royal Jordanian airliner.

Yousif helped guard some of the 39 TWA passengers held hostage for 17 days after Flight 847 was hijacked from Athens to Beirut, according to court papers obtained Monday.

U.S. Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem was beaten and shot to death while Flight 847 was at Beirut International Airport.

Yousif's role as a guard of TWA hostages was detailed in new court papers filed by prosecutors charging him with leading the hijacking and destruction of the Jordanian jetliner.

The Jordanian plane was seized in Beirut three days before the TWA jetliner was hijacked while taking off from Athens on June 14, 1985.

One former TWA hostage told the FBI that Yousif "was armed

Sudan calls up army reserves

CAIRO (AP) — The Sudanese government is calling up army reserves to back up regular troops as they fight to regain strategic towns held by southern rebels, a senior official says.

Ahmad Al Mighani, head of Sudan's five-member State Council, which acts as president, said Monday the government is organising a national conference on general mobilisation to put down the rebellion in southern Sudan.

He was quoted by Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) in a dispatch from the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

On Nov. 12, guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) captured the strategic town of Kurrum, close to the Ethiopian border. They pushed northward and occupied the Blue Nile town of Gizen, some 80 miles south of the village of Al Damazin and Roseires Dam and reservoir, Sudan's major electricity supplier and an important water source.

Al Damazin seems to be their target, but the government has vowed to take back the towns.

Mr. Mighani said reserves were being called up "to support the armed forces... (and) so they are behind the armed forces in operations to take back the positions that the rebels have occupied in southern Sudan."

The mainly Christian and animist southern rebels took up arms in 1983 against the Muslim majority government in the north, demanding economic and administrative reforms.

Somalia reshuffles cabinet

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre named new ministers of foreign affairs, finance and defence on Tuesday.

He moved his influential half-brother, Abdurahman Jama Barre, from foreign affairs to finance and made former Finance Minister Mohammad Sheikh Osman minister without portfolio.

The replacement of Sheikh Osman followed a decision last September to abolish the fortnightly foreign exchange auctions begun last year with the backing of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The new foreign minister in the shuffled and smaller cabinet is Mohammad Ali Hamud, previously minister of state for foreign affairs.

Hostages face bleak Christmas in Lebanon

By Hala Jaber
Reuter

BEIRUT — The foreign hostages of Lebanon face the Christmas season of peace and goodwill with heart-rending memories of Christmas past and uncertain prospects for the New Year.

American Pastor Reverend Benjamin Weir, freed in west Beirut 15 months ago, recalled in his book Hostage Bound Hostage Free the pain of Christmas in captivity far from family and friends.

"I greeted the morning of Christmas with my own quiet carolling, thinking of the only way I had to celebrate."

"I recalled past Christmas with my family and longed to be with them on this day of all days. The pain is worse thinking of how loved relatives must feel," he wrote.

At least 24 foreigners remain missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon. They include nine Americans, five French nationals, three Britons, three Iranians and one hostage each from West Germany, Ireland, Italy and India.

For 10 of the Westerners, Dec. 25 will mark their third Christmas in captivity. The Iraqis have been missing since 1982.

Rev. Weir, like six hostages still missing, was held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (holy war) group.

He writes in his book of how his kidnappers relented on Christmas Day 1985 and allowed him and his fellow American captives to admire a yule log cake before giving them a piece, a plate of fruit and a bottle of

cologne.

Rev. Weir spent much of his 16 months in captivity bound and blindfolded before his release on Sept. 16, 1986.

Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and Frenchmen Jean Paul Kauffmann, Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine and Michel Seurat either remain with the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad or are dead.

"I demand that Michel Seurat be released with the others. I demand that my husband comes home with the others — standing or in a coffin," Marie Seurat, whose husband Islamic Jihad said was "executed" last February, told French Radio Bleu.

The body of the 38-year-old researcher has not been found. "But he has to come back home. It can't go on like this. We have been living in desperation for two years now. The family is on the verge of madness. We cannot live two years in doubt," his wife said.

The families of an Indian and three other American hostages are spending this Christmas in torment because of a threat last week from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (ILJP) to harm its prisoners.

"We thought we will be receiving a statement to announce their release... instead we received a threat," Firyal Polhill, wife of 53-year-old Robert Polhill, told Reuters as she wept.

The ILJP also holds Americans Jesse Turner, 39, Alann Steen, 48, and Indian Mithileshwar Singh, 60. Gunmen disguised as police seized them from Beirut University College on Jan. 24.

Photographs of Polhill and

Turner accompanied a statement warning that all four hostages would be hurt unless Israeli troops stopped a crackdown in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All the wives could do was issue another appeal for their release.

Bearded and haggard, Polhill looked frightened — he had two sub-machineguns pointed at his head. The other picture showed Turner, who has never seen his five-month-old daughter Joan.

"We want them back," said Turner's wife, Badr, choking back tears. "I think she has to see her father at least to know him. We wish they are okay and are together at Christmas."

"I am sure he is full of questions as to why he is still a hostage and is constantly dreaming and thinking about how I am carrying on my life with our daughter," she added.

In the run-up to Christmas, Beirut newspapers and magazines raised the hopes of despairing relatives by saying some of the hostages, including the three Frenchmen, will soon be free.

There has been no word at all on some of the abductions.

"It's hard to describe my feelings. But I don't really see any prospect for his release in the near future," said Jill Morrell, fiancée of Briton John McCarthy, seized on the way to Beirut airport on April 17, 1986.

"A release doesn't just come out of the blue, but through months of dialogue and, after 20 months I think what the British government has been doing is

simply not enough," she said.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made her stand on the issue clear last month when she told parliament: "Dealing with terrorists only leads to more kidnappings and more violence."

Such a policy was supported by Church of England envoy Terry Waite, 48, who disappeared in mainly Muslim west Beirut last Jan. 20 on a mission to win the freedom of American hostages.

As Mr. Waite spends his first Christmas in captivity, a spokesman for Lambeth Palace in London said his family "will be celebrating a very quiet Christmas together. They wish to have it that way."

He said Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie would mention Mr. Waite in his Christmas sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, "conscious that at the same occasion a year ago Terry was in the congregation."

The rector of St. Bride's Church in London plans one minute of silence on New Year's Eve and an all-night vigil to light almost 200 candles, one for every five days Mr. Waite and Mr. McCarthy have been held.

In Paris, Kauffmann's wife Joelle planned to spend Christmas in a hotel in west Beirut on her third annual pilgrimage to the Lebanese capital to be closer to her husband and try to contact him.

It was not clear if Marie Seurat would accompany Joelle as usual. Criticising leaders of France for what she considers their inaction, Marie said: "This government has forgotten that this dead man left behind a mother, a wife and two daughters."

Kaddoumi: Gaza, West Bank protest part of plan

ABU DHABI (R) — A senior PLO official has criticised Arab states for their "slow" response to the unrest in the Israeli occupied territories which he said was planned as far back as April.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Political Department, said in an interview the protest demonstrations in West Bank and Gaza Strip were part of a plan laid down by the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers last April.

He moved his influential half-brother, Abdurahman Jama Barre, from foreign affairs to finance and made former Finance Minister Mohammad Sheikh Osman minister without portfolio.

The replacement of Sheikh Osman followed a decision last September to abolish the fortnightly foreign exchange auctions begun last year with the backing of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The new foreign minister in the shuffled and smaller cabinet is Mohammad Ali Hamud, previously minister of state for foreign affairs.

He said his Gulf tour was aimed at acquiring a "first-hand"

"Arab reaction is slow and falls short of the required level," he told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad.

Both Mr. Kaddoumi and PLO leader Yasser Arafat also called last week for United Nations intervention in the occupied territories.

Mr. Kaddoumi said in the Al Itihad interview Egypt would probably eventually abandon its 1979 peace treaty with Israel which led to most Arab states 'boycotting' Cairo.

"Egypt feels that such peace is imposed on her, and this makes us confident that Cairo will eventually abandon the Camp David agreement."

Nine Arab nations have restored diplomatic links with Egypt since the Arab summit in Amman last month and Mr. Kaddoumi said the PLO wanted its full return to the Arab fold.

"But it is Egypt which can decide this return and resume its leading role in the Arab struggle," he said.

Kennedy starts Gulf fact-finding tour

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy met Bahrain ruler Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa Tuesday as part of a fact-finding tour of the Gulf region during which he will make Christmas calls on U.S. warships stationed in the area.

Sen. Kennedy, a Democrat for Massachusetts, later told the Gulf News Agency that he listened to the views of the emir on developments in the troubled Gulf region as well as issues of common interest.

He said his Gulf tour was aimed at acquiring a "first-hand"

assessment of the situation. He hailed the bilateral relations between the United States and the central Gulf island state.

The tour includes a day in Bahrain, a day in Oman, and a day in Kuwait, three of the Arab neighbours of warring Iraq and Iran, before departing for home late Christmas Day.

The talks in the three Gulf Arab states, one in the central Gulf and one each at the northern and southern ends of the waterway, are interspersed by diverse visits by Sen. Kennedy to U.S. Navy warships that are present

inside and outside the Gulf waterway.

Basically, he is planning to spend Christmas Eve and a large part of Christmas Day with navy-men but the selection of warships that he would call upon has not been disclosed.

The warship visits were to start with a meeting last Tuesday with Adm. Harold Bensen, commander of the 11-U.S. Middle East Force aboard his command vessel La Salle. The force patrols the 1,000-kilometre Gulf waterway. Battleship groups are stationed outside the Gulf.

Christmas cards urge release of professors

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese students issued Christmas cards appealing in Beirut on Tuesday for the release of four kidnapped university professors.

"Season's greetings, release our professors," said the cards, distributed by students of Beirut University College (BUC) to local and international media in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

A clandestine organisation called Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine claimed the kidnapping of Alann Steen, 48, Robert Polhill, 53, Jesse Turner, 39, and 60-year-old Mithileshwar Singh.

The kidnappers, who demanded the release of 400 Arabs from Israeli jails in return for the professors' freedom, warned last Friday they would hurt their captive unless Israel curbed its action against Palestinian protesters in the Israeli-occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div> <div>Tel: 7311-14</div> <div>PROGRAMME ONE</div> <div>15:30 Koran</div> <div>15:45 Programme Review</div> <div>15:55 Woodie Woodpecker</div> <div>16:20 Children's programme</div> <div>18:10 Local series</div> <div>19:00 Iraq Newsletter</div> <div>19:15 Local Programme</div> <div>19:45 Programme review</div> <div>20:00 News in Arabic</div> <div>20:30 Arabic series</div> <div>21:30 News in Arabic</div> <div>22:30 Cultural programme</div> <div>23:30 Wrestling</div> <div>24:00 News summary</div> <div>PROGRAMME TWO</div> <div>17:30 French programme</div> <div>17:45 "Champs Elysees" — Variety programme</div> <div>19:00 News in French</div> <div>19:15 Local programme: "Aujourd'hui en Jordanie"</div> <div>19:30 News in Hebrew</div> <div>19:45 Sports Summary</div> <div>20:30 News in Arabic</div> <div>21:10 Documentary — Well-being</div> <div>22:30 News in English</div> <div>23:30 Floodlight</div> <div>24:10 Hi De Hi</div> <div>RADIO JORDAN</div> <div>555 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM</div> <div>on 95.0 KHz. SW</div> <div>Tel: 7411-19</div> <div>07:00 Light Music</div> <div>07:30 Newsdesk</div> <div>08:00 Morning Show</div> <div>08:30 News Summary</div> <div>09:00 Morning Show Contd.</div> <div>09:30 Old Favourites</div> <div>10:00 Easy Listening</div> <div>10:30 Concert Hour</div> <div>10:45 News in Summary</div> <div>11:00 Instrumentals</div> <div>11:30 Jazz</div> <div>12:00 News Summary</div> <div>12:30 Readings</div> <div>12:45 Pop Session</div> <div>13:00 News Summary</div> <div>13:15 Pop Session</div> <div>13:30 News Bulletin</div> <div>14:00 Instrumentals</div> <div>14:30 Easy Listening</div> <div>15:00 Concert Hour</div> <div>16:00 News in Summary</div> <div>16:30 Instrumentals</div> <div>17:00 Old Favourites</div> <div>17:30 Pop Session</div> <div>18:00 News Summary</div> <div>18:30 Science Report</div> <div>19:00 Music</div> <div>19:30 News Desk</div> <div>19:50 Date with a Star</div>	<div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div> <div>EXHIBITIONS</div> <div>★ Pakistan photo exhibition at the University of Jordan.</div> <div>★ "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23)</div> <div>★ "Sun" painting by Hana Saadi at 4:00 p.m. at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (until Dec. 25)</div> <div>★ An art exhibition by Samir Masheh at the Spanish Cultural Centre - Jabbal Amman (until Dec. 31).</div> <div>★ An art exhibition entitled "The Architect of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 30).</div> <div>FILMS</div> <div>★ "A German Revolution" at 8:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.</div> <div>★ Feature film "Superman" at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.</div> <div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div> <div>Royal Cultural Centre — Tel. 6610297</div> <div>American Centre — 644371</div> <div>British Council — 6361478</div> <div>French Cultural Centre — 637089</div> <div>Goethe Institute — 641993</div> <div>Soviet Cultural Centre — 644503</div> <div>Spanish Cultural Centre — 623499</div> <div>Turkish Cultural Centre — 639777</div> <div>Hava Arts Centre — 665195</div> <div>Husseini Youth City — 6671816</div> <div>Y.W.C.A. — 641793</div> <div>W.M.C.A. — 664251</div> <div>Amman Municipal Library — 637111</div> <div>Univ. of Jordan Library — 843555</div> <div>MUSEUMS</div> <div>"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.</div> <div>Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also includes from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.</div>	<div>Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crater Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.</div> <div>Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount-Zab, Jabal Lweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.</div> <div>Mamlars' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664330.</div> <div>CHURCHES</div> <div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 623490.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweideh. Tel. 637440.</div> <div>De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 61757.</div> <div>Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lweideh. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622360.</div> <div>Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 625541.</div> <div>Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 618406.</div> <div>Chaplain's residence (tel. 601350).</div> <div>Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331.</div> <div>Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 77261.</div> <div>St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.</div> <div>Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmicsani. Tel. 775334.</div> <div>Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m., Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.</div> <div>Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Inter-denominational-cum-ecumenical. English Service: Saturday at 6:30 p.m. tel. 822605. Rev. Veli.</div> <div>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 518177. 821264.</div>	<div>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</div> <div>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.</div> <div>ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>09:15 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Kuwait (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Damascus (RJ)</div> <div>09:30 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)</div> <div>10:45 Jeddah, Medina (SV)</div> <div>11:40 Athens (RJ)</div> <div>18:05 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)</div> <div>18:15 London, Geneva (RJ)</div> <div>18:30 Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)</div> <div>18:45 Bangkok (RJ)</div> <div>18:45 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>18:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</div> <div>19:30 Sydney, Kuala Lumpur (add. (RJ))</div> <div>23:55 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>07:40 Karachi (PK)</div> <div>09:35 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>11:45 Kuwait (MS)</div> <div>12:00 Damascus (SV)</div> <div>12:10 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>13:40 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)</div> <div>15:00 Jeddah, Medina (SV)</div> <div>20:15 Zurich, Frankfurt (LH)</div> <div>21:40 Frankfurt (LH)</div> <div>21:40 Paris, Damascus (AF)</div> <div>22:25 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)</div> <div>DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</div> <div>07:00 Agaba (RJ)</div> <div>11:30 Vienna, New York (RJ)</div> <div>12:00 Athens (RJ)</div> <div>12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)</div> <div>12:30 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>13:30 Riyadh (RJ)</div> <div>19:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</div> <div>19:50 Baghdad (RJ)</div> <div>20:00 Jeddah (RJ)</div> <div>20:15 Cairo (RJ)</div> <div>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</div> <div>06:30 Cairo, London (BA)</div> <div>06:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)</div> <div>08:30 Beirut (ME)</div> <div>08:40 Damascus, Tripoli (PK)</div> <div>10:20 Cairo (MS)</div> <div>12:00 Damascus, Sana'a (SV)</div> <div>13:00 Tripoli (LN)</div> <div>13:00 Baghdad (IA)</div> <div>13:45 Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)</div> <div>14:00 Kuwait (KU)</div> <div>16:40 Medina, Jeddah (SV)</div> <div>23:15 Karachi (PK)</div> <div>PRAYER TIMES</div> <div>05:06 Fajr</div> <div>06:30 Sunrise</div> <div>11:35 Dhuhr</div> <div>14:39 Asr</div> <div>16:39 Maghrib</div> <div>18:04 Isha</div> <div>WEATHER</div> <div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.</div> <div>It will be cloudy to cloudy, with chances for scattered showers associated with thunder activities at times. A drop in temperature is expected. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for showers. Winds will be southerly moderate and rough seas.</div> <div>Min./max. temp.</div> <div>Agaba 12 / 17</div> <div>Deserts 12 / 17</div> <div>Jordan Valley 11 / 19</div> <div>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Agaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Agaba 70 per cent.</div> <div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div> <div>Tuesday rates</div> <div>Local sell/buy rates in fils</div> <div>Belgian franc 96.5 / 98.3</div> <div>Dutch guilder 179.2 / 182.9</div> <div>French franc 39.5 / 40.7</div> <div>Italian lira 27.4 / 27.9</div> <div>Japanese yen (for 100) 238.3 / 263</div> <div>Swedish crown 55.4 / 56.5</div> <div>Swiss franc 247.5 / 252.9</div> <div>U.K. sterling pound 247.5 / 252.9</div> <div>U.S. dollar 329.6 / 334.9</div> <div>W. German mark 301.7 / 308.9</div>	<div>EMERGENCIES</div> <div>Amman governorate 891238</div> <div>Amman Civil Defence 198, 199</div> <div>Civil Defence (Rural) 71293, 73131</div> <div>Civil Defence Qumayshah 770733</div> <div>Civil Defence Deir Alla 57906</div> <div>Ambulance 193, 775111</div> <div>Amman downtown fire brigade 198</div> <div>First aid 63541</div> <div>Amman Bank 778033</div> <div>Civil Defence rescue 661111</div> <div>Fire headquarters 622003</div> <div>Police rescue 192, 631111, 627777</div> <div>Police headquarters 639141</div> <div>Traffic police 8963001</div> <div>Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881</div> <div>Amman water company 771253/8</div> <div>Queen Alia Intl. Airport (06)5330360</div> <div>HOSPITALS</div> <div>Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332</div> <div>Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6</div> <div>Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2</div> <div>Abal Amman Maternity 642362</div> <div>Malhas, J. Amman 636140</div> <div>Palestine, Shmicsani 664171/4</div> <div>Shmicsani Hospital 669131</div> <div>University Hospital 845845</div> <div>Al-Mushter Hospital 6672719</div> <div>The Islamic, Abdali 6661737</div> <div>Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6</div> <div>Italian, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3</div> <div>Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26</div> <div>Army, Marka 891611/5</div> <div>Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50</div> <div>Amal Hospital 674155</div> <div>NIGHT DUTY</div> <div>AMMAN:</div> <div>Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil 894294</div> <div>Dr. Hisham Kana'an 780286</div> <div>Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 620115</div> <div>Dr. Anwar Mousa Al Haj 771020</div> <div>Firas pharmacy 661912</div> <div>Ferdows pharmacy 787334</div> <div>Al Asema pharmacy 637055</div> <div>Nairouz pharmacy 632672</div> <div>Al Salama pharmacy 636730</div> <div>TAXIS:</div> <div>Kayali taxi 636730</div> <div>Taxi taxi 644960</div> <div>Tamer taxi 666467</div> <div>Raghad taxi 843400</div> <div>Jordan taxi 736428</div> <div>Savet taxi 776131</div> <div>IBRD:</div> <div>Dr. Hanzeh Anakeh 340798</div> <div>Sharaa pharmacy (—) 933299</div> <div>ZARQA:</div> <div>Dr. Mohammad Adnan Yaghmour 933299</div> <div>GENERAL</div> <div>Jordan Television 77311/19</div> <div>Radio Jordan 77411/19</div> <div>Ministry of Tourism 64231</div> <div>Hotel complaints 666126</div> <div>Price complaints 661176</div> <div>Telephone Information 12</div> <div>Jordan and Middle East calls 10</div> <div>Overseas calls 10</div> <div>Repair service 11</div>	<div>MARKET PRICES</div> <div>Upper/lower price in fils per kg.</div> <div>Apple (different kinds) 300 / 250</div> <div>Apple (French) 400 / 350</div> <div>Banana 350 / 300</div> <div>Banana (Mukannam) 300 / 240</div> <div>Beans 130 / 120</div> <div>Beans (broad) 450 / 350</div> <div>Beetroot 220 / 160</div> <div>Cabbage 60 / 40</div> <div>Carrot 270 / 220</div> <div>Cauliflower 70 / 40</div> <div>Cucumbers 220 / 180</div> <div>Dates (box) 120 / 100</div> <div>Eggplant (large) 70 / 40</div> <div>Eggplant (small) 120 / 70</div> <div>Garlic 400 / 300</div> <div>Grapefruit 130 / 100</div> <div>Lemon 110 / 70</div> <div>Mandarin 130 / 100</div> <div>Mallow 360 / 200</div> <div>Marrow 100 / 60</div> <div>Onion (green) 120 / 80</div> <div>Onion (dry) 300 / 160</div> <div>Oranges (Abu Surra) 270 / 220</div> <div>Oranges (Shammout) 300 / 150</div> <div>Pepper (hot) 180 / 140</div> <div>Pepper (sweet) 110 / 80</div> <div>Potato 160 / 100</div> <div>Squash 70 / 30</div> <div>Soybean 70 / 40</div> <div>Tomatoes 130 / 90</div> <div>Turnip 150 / 120</div>
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King, Gorbachev hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

wreaths there. After the ceremonies King Hussein and Queen Noor met at their residence at the Kremlin Palace with the heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in the Soviet Union and their wives. The diplomats welcomed the King and wished him success in his efforts for implementing the resolutions of the Amman summit meeting, Petra said.

Mr. Rifai held a round of talks with his Soviet counterpart Nicolai Ryzkov on Tuesday on the situation in the Middle East, the ongoing efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and efforts to find settlement to the war in line with Resolution 598.

Petra said the Jordanian and Soviet views on the Middle East conflict and the Gulf war were identical.

Mr. Rifai and the Soviet prime minister also discussed bilateral relations and agreed to set up a joint committee to meet in Amman and Moscow to expand cooperation in the fields of trade and economy and joint projects.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Qasem, Mr. Masri, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid, and the Jordanian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Faleh Tawil. On the Soviet side, the meeting was attended by the ministers of defence and trade and a deputy prime minister, a deputy foreign minister and the chairman of the Soviet Economic Cooperation Committee, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and Africa Department and the

Soviet ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Alexander Zinchuk.

Mr. Masri held a round of separate talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Jordanian-Soviet relations and topics related to nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Masri expressed Jordan's appreciation of the Soviet Union's efforts which were crowned with the conclusion of the Dec. 8 treaty on the removal of nuclear missiles.

Both ministers, according to Petra, praised the revolt of the Arab people in the occupied territories and described the situation as dangerous.

Mr. Masri and Mr. Shevardnadze emphasised the need for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference and also called for an end to the Gulf conflict and the implementation of U.N. resolutions on the two problems.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Tawil and Mr. Yuli Poliakov, director of the Middle East desk at the Soviet Foreign Ministry as well as Ambassador Zinchuk.

Also on Tuesday, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker met with Marshal Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, and discussed Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in military affairs.

The meeting resulted in the formation of joint military committees, which held their first meeting Tuesday afternoon.

King Hussein and Queen Noor watched a musical play performed at Bolshoi Theatre Tuesday evening. Mr. Gromyko and his wife and senior Soviet officials also attended the play.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee discusses Arab Child Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Last October's celebrations marking Arab Child Day were reviewed at a meeting here Tuesday by a committee in charge of preparing for the celebrations formed by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). The committee chaired by Mr. Thihni Ra'fat also discussed the publication of a special pamphlet on Arab Child Day and activities carried out on the occasion and also the formation of committees to supervise such activities in Amman and other regions of the Kingdom. The preparatory committee comprises 25 members representing government institutions and private organisations concerned with children's affairs in the country.

Exhibition of stamps opens tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition of Jordanian and Soviet stamps will be opened Thursday at the Ministry of Communications in Amman. The exhibition is being organised by the Ministry of Communications in cooperation with the Soviet Cultural Centre. Minister of Communications Muhiyeddin Al Hussein will open the week-long exhibition which marks His Majesty King Hussein's current visit to the Soviet Union.

Jordanian, Iraqi officials discuss labour ties

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Mr. Samir Qarden, secretary general of the Jordanian Federation of Labour Unions met here Tuesday with Mr. Fadel Mahmoud Gharib, chairman of the Iraqi Federation of Labour Unions and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in labour-related affairs. The two officials also looked into means of coordinating their unions' stands at various Arab and international conferences and meetings and discussed cooperation in confronting external dangers to Arab labourers and Arab people in general.

Egyptian delegation visits Jerash

JERASH (Petra) — A delegation from cooperative organisations in Egypt now on a visit to Jordan visited Jerash Tuesday and met with leaders of cooperatives there. The 33-member delegation also toured a number of agricultural cooperatives and were briefed on the work of cooperative organisations in the Jerash district. Later the delegation met with a society in charge of poultry sector in Jerash and were briefed on the development of the society's services and programmes.

Cabinet approves higher fine to reconnect electric power

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday approved an increase to JD 2.5 of power reconnecting charges to be levied from default subscribers. The extra charge, to be collected as of the beginning of 1988, is up from 500 fils.

The Cabinet decision said that the electricity authority will offer subscribers a month to pay bills after which the current will be disconnected and the subscribers will pay the JD 2.5 fine for reconnection.

The Cabinet also formed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development due to open in Khartoum on Dec. 26.

The delegation which will be led by Agriculture Minister Marwan Hamoud will comprise a number of specialists from the ministry of agriculture.

The four-day Khartoum meeting will discuss among other things the organisation's operations for 1988.

The Cabinet also approved a Japanese grant of 40 million yens to Jordan. The grant will be used to cover the cost of importing equipment needed by the Department of Antiquities in its restoration work on a number of archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Officials review social work activities in Irbid Governorate

IRBID (Petra) — Social development activity in Irbid governorate was reviewed here Tuesday by Dr. Mohammad Souqar, under secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Mr. Zaki Tal, director of the social development department in Irbid Governorate.

Later, Dr. Souqar met with heads of social organisations with whom he discussed the prospect of establishing an organisation for the care of orphans and homeless children aged between 12 and 18. There is no institution of this kind in Irbid Governorate at present nor is there any home for the old, Dr. Souqar noted.

Dr. Souqar later toured a number of social development institutions in the governorate and was briefed on their work

and their demands and needs to carry out social programmes.

Meanwhile, the social development department in Irbid Tuesday published a report on its activity in cooperation with the National Aid Fund during the past month.

The report said that financial aid totalling JD 69,214 was extended to 1,642 needy families in the governorate and that other poor families were offered opportunity to start their own small businesses through aid that totalled JD 15,243.

In addition, the report said, 371 females were offered training courses in dress making at 18 vocational centres, set up by development institutions in the Irbid region.

Ministry completes building four new schools in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has completed work on a number of school buildings in Karak Governorate in the course of its drive to make available sufficient school premises and end its dependence on rented buildings.

Education director Hani Mahamid said that during 1987 his department opened four schools which cost a total of JD 2,348,381; and the inauguration of these premises took place during the country's celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's 52nd birthday last month.

Committee reviews comprehensive plan for Greater Amman area

AMMAN (Petra) — A technical committee formed by Greater Amman Municipality expects the population of the capital to reach two million by the year 2005 and proposes in a report a number of measures to update services for the growing population.

The committee's report was reviewed Tuesday by the committee members at a meeting chaired by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

The committee also looked into a plan for comprehensive development for the Greater Amman region, which will entail integrated municipal and public services.

Mr. Rawabdeh, speaking at the meeting, praised coordination between the municipality and other institutions which provide services within the Amman region.

Jordan emphasises need for serious action to confront Israeli oppression

Jordanian church leaders cancel Christmas celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government welcomes any Arab or Islamic meeting at any level to discuss the serious developments in the holy city of Jerusalem and other occupied Arab territories, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin said Tuesday.

The minister, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, emphasised "the need for serious pan-Arab action in the current stage for confronting Zionist aggression on defenceless Arab citizens."

In his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, King Hassan of Morocco had called for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the current situation in the occupied Arab lands.

He said in Rabat that he sent messages to heads of OIC countries proposing the meeting to be held in Morocco at foreign ministers level on Dec. 27 to discuss the situation.

King Hassan said that the bloody events in the Israeli-occupied territories, specially in Jerusalem, call on all Muslims to deplore Israeli repression.

Meanwhile, Christian church leaders in Jordan said Tuesday they have cancelled all Christmas activities except for worship services in solidarity with the Palestinian protests.

"How can we celebrate and be happy if our people are suffering the Israeli violence?" said the Rev. Manuel Sawalha, head of the Roman Catholic parish in Sweifeh.

Earlier, Petra reported that the leaders of all major Christian denominations in the country had agreed to cancel all celebrations other than worship services.

Among the events cancelled are the usual Christmas receptions sponsored by churches.

The action by Jordanian church leaders follows an announcement that Palestinian leaders had cancelled a traditional Christmas eve parade and party in Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus.

"In this peaceful season, Christmas time, we feel the agony and pain of our people in the holy land who are fighting for their Arab identity and to free themselves from the Israeli occupation," said the statement issued

by the Jordanian church leaders. "Therefore, we denounce the vicious Israeli occupation and the violence against our peaceful people... and in solidarity with their protests we cancel all the official celebrations in the country, except for regular masses," it said.

On Monday, representatives of professional associations held a public rally in which they condemned Israel's barbaric actions against the Arab people and paid tribute to the popular uprising. The rally expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people in their resistance against Israel.

Meanwhile, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions Tuesday called on the Arab Nation to support the steadfastness of "our kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories and to mobilise all resources and capacities to liberate the Palestinian soil and to free the people from shackles of the Israeli occupation."

In a communique issued on Tuesday the federation called on all peace loving nations "to embark on an urgent action to put an end to the barbaric assault of the Zionist authorities against our armless people in the occupied Arab territories."

The communique expressed pride and hope over the current events now taking place in the occupied Arab territories, "as our people are continuing their popular uprising in the face of the Israeli occupation authorities, thus foiling the attempts for Judaizing the Arab territories and the gradual annexation of Arab land and institutions."

It expressed pain for the current state of affairs in the Arab World, "which precludes the provision of support and assistance to our people who are now defending their land and national pride." The federation also expressed hope for achieving Arab solidarity, saying that beginning of such solidarity has started to emerge.

Indian film week offers a refreshing change

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Indian film week scheduled to begin here on Saturday appears specifically aimed at showing there is more to Indian cinema than the typical un-of-the-mill thrillers and romantic tragicomedies that regularly find their way to the movie houses in town.

In fact, all the six movies to be screened at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) from Saturday are what could be described as "off-beat, new-era" films, steering a 'clear' course away from the routine boy-meets-girl-then-comes-the-villain theme that dominates a good part of the 1,000-odd movies churned out every year by Indian film makers.

For one thing, none of the stars in the six films, except for Shabana Azmi — "the queen on tragedy in contemporary Indian cinema" — is that well-known outside India to compete with big-time names such as Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Mithun Chakravorty or Dharmendra among the male bi-man type heroes or Zeenat Aman, Parveen Babi or Hema Malini from the typically coy Indian film heroines. However, it doesn't mean any of the six films are any less popular. If anything, all of them are award winners for the finesse and delicate but direct approach life in its raw form in a land of apparent mysteries and social contradictions.

U.S. criticises Israel

(Continued from page 1)

leaders in the occupied territories. But he refused to identify them.

"We are actively involved in diplomatic discussions on this matter. We are reviewing it with a number of parties," Fitzwater said.

He said that U.S. officials in contact with Israel had expressed concern about the use of live ammunition to quell the protests and suggested that "rubber bullets or some other means" were preferable.

The State Department warned Americans on Monday that they could be in danger if they travelled to the Israeli-occupied territories.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley took note of the violence and urged Americans visiting the area to exercise caution.

"We continue to be deeply grieved by the violence that has resulted in loss of life and injury in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem," Mrs. Oakley told reporters.

Mrs. Oakley noted that an advisory warning Americans about travel to the occupied territories was issued in March 1982 and remains in effect.

Judging from the crowds that pack the Amman movie houses whenever Indian films are shown and from the heavy demand for video-taped films from the sub-continent, it is no secret that Hindi movies are favourites for a very good part of the Jordanian audience. But rarely does a no-holds-barred realistic film that thrusts hard-core life into focus ever come to town, perhaps because it will definitely be lacking the essential spice that make watching an Indian movie a pleasure for most foreign audiences — tantalising music scores, colourful background, glimpses of what would be weird rituals to the outside world and above all, the director's imagination running wild, accepting no known boundaries even to fantasy.

Those who expect stories of long-lost brothers meeting for a happy ending or heroes singing open-throated romantic lines from tree-tops will definitely be disappointed with the six films to be shown at the RCC. But, at the same time, for those whom life in India always holds out an element of mystery and surprise, the celluloid reels that will unfold at the RCC offer more than an eyeful. It is difficult to single out any of the six — four of them in Hindi, one in Oriya and the last one in Kannada but all subtitled in Arabic — are outstanding among themselves since each has its own style and class and conveys a different theme and message.

The first is Khandar (Ruins), directed by Minal Sen, one of the most well-known Indian directors in the "new cinema." Built around a girl and her memory fantasies based on her devotion to a lost lover, the film also draws a parallel between the girl's self-induced suffering of what she perceives as a discarded life and the ruins that provide the backdrop to the scene. A superb performance by Shabana Azmi who more than justifies her fame

as the most talented Indian actress of today.

The second is Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho, starring Nasereddin Shah, a budding youth who hit headlines for his sensitive and convincing portrayals of contrasting roles in the early 1980s. His performance as the central character as Mohan Joshi does more than justice to his fame as one of those Indian actors who are at home in any role. The movie itself, directed by Saeed Akhtar Merza, a relatively unknown name in Indian film circles, is a satire on the red-tape and legal proceedings in the Indian judiciary system. It deals with the sometimes bitter, sometimes humorous of a retired clerk who seeks legal recourse against a wrong.

The Oriyan film, Maya Mirigya (The Mirage) directed by Nishad Mahapatra, takes the audience to a small town in the eastern Indian state of Orissa and depicts the struggles of an elderly schoolmaster torn by the gradual but inevitable process of disintegration of a middle class joint family and traditional values, away from the flashy film sets of Bombay — "India's Hollywood" — Maya Mirigya gives a rare insight to how life is in a semi-rural, semi-urban Indian town.

But Janam (Birth) brings you back right into the world of film making in Bombay. Kumar Gaurav, another youngster in the Indian film scene today, plays the central role as an illegitimate son whose film-director father balks at acknowledging him in public but does so when the son proves himself to be a better director than himself. Originally made a television series, Janam is another refreshing change from big-time actors.

The fourth Hindi movie in the offering is Tyagapatra. Very little of the movie is known, but judging the nature of the other five to be screened, it should be one



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U.S. must face realities

THE SECURITY Council was expected to vote on a resolution late Tuesday on the ongoing Arab uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after days of procrastination by the U.S. Whether or not the U.S. ultimately vetoes or abstains on the resolution, the American attitude towards adopting a principled stand on the struggle of the Palestinian people for their rights and Israel's barbaric and inhuman practices, reminiscent of the Nazi actions during World War II, was very evident; Washington did not want any part of any resolution that criticises the Jewish state's actions, even if such actions included some of the most oppressive measures unheard of in recent civilised history.

On the official level in Washington, the best that the White House could come up with was a condemnation of "violent demonstrations and riots on the one side" and "harsh security measures and excessive use of live ammunition on the other" — thus trying to equate the actions of a people seeking liberation from years of occupation and the oppressive measures applied against them by the occupying power. No mention whatsoever was made of the fact that, even by Israeli admission, at least 22 people had been shot dead and hundreds wounded in the atrocious Israeli campaign against the Palestinians.

It is a matter of utmost ridicule that the United States, at this most critical juncture in the history of the Middle East, the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, was adamantly trying to hang onto its openly biased policy and seeking to shield the party, which, by all international norms and practices, was engaged in a ruthless campaign of repression.

The pointed American contention that it was trying to control the situation through contacts with "a number of parties" also unveils another truth — it will take much more than 22 lives and hundreds of casualties before the U.S. will openly acknowledge that the crux of the problem is the denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in the land of Palestine. Least of all, Washington, with its vast network of political observers and others in the region, needs little reminder that what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza is not just another round of Arab demonstrations; it represents the long-awaited rebellion of a people which will stop at nothing less than liberation.

The U.S. will be well advised to realise this truth and reexamine its policies and stands before it loses whatever remains of its credibility in the region and move to uphold the ideals on which it was founded by ensuring the course of justice in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab-Soviet ties consolidated

IN HIS speech at Monday's banquet in his honour in Moscow, His Majesty King Hussein referred to a number of well-known facts about the Soviet Union — like the great October Revolution — and the major achievements in the Soviet Union since that revolution that made the country one of the superpowers of the world. This great nation which has massive world influence can and should have a say in the world; and therefore those who wish to impose their will by force and injustice on others must realise that this great nation does not allow them to do so. This is simply because the Soviet Union is a peace-loving nation and a superpower that has the power to stop injustice. Hence any search for a just peace in the Middle East cannot be done without the Soviet Union and any quest for ending the Gulf conflict without Soviet participation on equal footing can never materialise. The Soviet Union has proved that it is a great nation and a peace-loving country, supporting liberation movements seeking justice and freedom as King Hussein said in his address in Moscow. The King is in Moscow representing the entire Arab Nation and voicing this nation's desire for peace and a rejection to all forms of hegemony and injustice. The King is in Moscow conveying the true stand of the Arab World adopted at the Amman Arab summit in regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war. The Arab people who always looked to the Soviet Union as a friend consider this visit as a confirmation of the noble meanings of friendship, and a consolidation of the ties of cooperation between the Arab World and the Soviet Union.

Al Dustour: In pursuit of justice

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to the Soviet Union is considered one more station, but an important one, in his long and constant endeavour to serve pan-Arab causes and to bolster the Arab Nation's stand worldwide. This visit assumes added significance as it comes in the wake of a successful Arab summit meeting of which the King was chairman and which succeeded in achieving consensus and agreement among Arab leaders. The King's visit is backed by a long history of friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union, and between the Soviets and the Arabs in general. There is no doubt that the agenda of talks between the King and the Soviet leaders will cover regional questions of concern to the Arab Nation at large. Particular attention will no doubt be given to the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict specially as the Gulf region and the occupied Arab territories are currently witnessing serious developments. These two questions escaped the attention of the two superpowers at their summit meeting in Washington earlier this month and therefore the Arabs are bound now to step up their contacts with major world nations to seek justice and a peaceful settlement for these outstanding issues.

Sawt Al Shaab: Common views and stands

IN HIS talks with Soviet leaders, King Hussein reiterated the firm stand of the Arab Nation with regard to regional issues and the principles in which Jordan believes with regard to settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war. The King, who is representing the whole Arab Nation in his current talks with the Soviet leadership, reaffirmed strong friendly relations between the Arabs and the Soviet Union, and said that the views of the two sides were identical over the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially over the proposal to convene an international peace conference. In the Gulf conflict, both sides adhere to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and both call for an end to the conflict which endangers world peace and security. The King's visit to Moscow and his talks with Soviet leaders come against a background of escalated tension in the Gulf and serious developments in the occupied Arab territories. The King's visit also assumes importance because it follows a successful Arab summit meeting in Amman when all Arab leaders agreed on reaching consensus on outstanding problems. Therefore, it is hoped that the visit will enhance bilateral relations and contribute to the promotion of Soviet-Arab cooperation in various fields.

His Majesty the King's speech at Moscow banquet hosted by Soviet president

The Arab Nation hopes for effective Soviet action towards implementing 598 ● The uprising in occupied territories is the natural response of the Palestinian people suffering under occupation

Following is an unofficial translation of His Majesty King Hussein's speech at a banquet hosted by Soviet President Andrei Gromyko in Moscow on Monday, the first day of His Majesty's current state visit to the Soviet Union.

Dear President,
Dear Madam,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I AM extremely happy to be with you this evening and Queen Noor and the Jordanian delegation share with me the expression of our delight on this occasion which allows us to voice our appreciation and respect for you and your statemanship which left an impression in your long and most distinguished achievements and continued work for the causes of peace, liberation and cooperation among nations.

MAY I also voice my deep appreciation for the hospitality accorded to us in your country since the moment we landed in this great country and beautiful capital. I am pleased to seize this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency and the government and friendly people of the Soviet Union greetings and affection from the Jordanian people and government and their aspiration for stronger relations of cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the best interest of both countries.

MY visit to your country today comes several weeks after your celebration of the 70th anniversary of the revolution which carried your great nation to a most distinguished position it assumes in our present modern age.

IT is enough to mention that you have achieved in a brief period of time great achievements on the domestic and foreign fronts that transformed your country into a superpower with wide spheres of direct influence on the course of events in the international arena and one that assumes a distinguished role in formulating and shaping the future of humanity. We notice with great admiration the ongoing process of reevaluation and reexamination which you have initiated for accomplishing more achievements for your country and your people in your glorious and reconstruction policies.

WE can only express our deep appreciation to you for your unfailing duty towards world peace and security despite your immense preoccupations. You have been in the forefront, acting as pioneers in proposing schemes and submitting constructive ideas on nuclear disarmament as a basic and inevitable step for building human civilisation and safeguarding mankind's survival and security.

I AM pleased to express in my name and on behalf of the government and people of Jordan my deepest congratulations to you for your success in concluding an agreement with the United States on the removal of short- and medium-range nuclear missiles which was signed in Washington on Dec. 8.

THE people of the world are entitled to be delighted over this first step, which is bound to open more scopes for other subsequent steps that can remove the nightmare of nuclear armament from the minds of nations so that all efforts and potentials can be directed towards the urgent process of economic and social development in a world free of nuclear horror and where the nations enjoy security and freedom.

Mr. President,

YOUR country set a great example to the world through its just struggle in defence of its soil in the face of Nazi aggression during World War II. Your countrymen offered huge human and material sacrifices for the achievement of that great and noble objective and the heroic stand of your people during the war was exemplary to other nations which struggled for freedom from foreign domination and the achievement of independence and the right of choosing their social and political systems.

YOU have been supporting all liberation movements and served as a source of assistance and inspiration to all those seeking to free themselves from imperialism and repression and striving for a decent and dignified free life. We have felt this in particular in your firm stands in support of the just Arab causes. You have stood by right and justice and by interna-

tional legitimacy in your drive to support the Arab people's struggle in Palestine and in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

BOTH our countries agree on the principle on opposing injustice and aggression and our common belief in the freedom of peoples and solving problems among nations through peaceful means. This has resulted in our identical views about problems and means of solving them. Our views also converged on the call for convening an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East, to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, in addition to all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). This conference is needed to find effective ways that can guarantee the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 338 which reaffirms the need for the implementation of Resolution 242 which reaffirms, among other things, the inadmissibility of occupying other countries lands by force and calls for the need of withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 war within the formula of exchanging land for peace.

SINCE the people and land of Palestine are at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, this problem should be resolved in all its aspects so that the solution can be comprehensive, just and acceptable to the present and future generations.

IN their last summit meeting held in Amman last month, leaders of Arab countries reaffirmed the Arab Nation's orientations towards a just peace in conformity with international legitimacy and called for the convening of an international conference as the only means for achieving the aspired peace. We have great confidence that the Soviet Union shares with us the view about the international conference, and will, as it did in the past, exert all possible efforts for making this Arab orientation successful because this is the orientation of nations towards peace and justice. We are confident that your effective role will be essential and basic in the endeavour for fulfilling this noble goal in our region which is of vital importance for world peace and security.

AS you know I have come to your country leaving behind me an upsurge of popular resistance in the occupied Arab territories against occupation and the occupation authorities. What is strange there is the behaviour of the Israeli leadership which is still working to mislead itself by claiming that this revolt is of the making of foreign and extremist sources. In reality, this revolt represents a natural and real response of the Palestinian people suffering under Israeli occupation for the past 20 years. The Israeli



leadership should realise that its interpretation of the events is bound to harm the peace process as much as it serves to deceive the Israeli people themselves.

Mr. President,

THE second question which the Arab leaders focused their attention on during their summit was the Iran-Iraq war. In this war the Iranian regime insists on pursuing the fight against the Arab people of Iraq and Iraqi territory. As you know, Mr. President, this war has now entered its eighth year and brought about immense human and material losses and also endangered stability in the Gulf region. Not only did the Iranian government reject all regional and international efforts for establishing peace and justice but it also sought to expand the conflict, the dimension of aggression and threats and sabotage activity to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

IRAQ for its part has responded to all sincere initiatives aimed at ending the war and establishing peace and positive cooperation. It has responded favourably to the peace initiatives from the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations Organisation. Iraq has accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 issued in July 1987, in which you played a significant role in formulation, Iraq has responded to this resolution, which represents the will of the international community, and pledged to implement it in full in the order of its articles. Despite the lapse of a long time since the adoption of that resolution and despite the numerous efforts of the U.N. Secretary General, Iran, is still persistent in rejecting the international will and continues to defy all efforts for establishing peace. Iraq's leaders continue to issue war threats and statements expressing their determination to pursue their war and aggression which have become a source of threat not only to regional stability but also to world peace and security.

TAKING into consideration the dangers inherent in Iran's aggression we see that the international community is dutybound to follow up on its efforts and help implement Resolution 598. Your enormous sacrifices in World War II have proved that



sesses vast potential and influence in all spheres, particularly within the framework of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

WITHIN the framework of cordial and friendly relations that connect us and in our common belief in the right of all peoples to self-determination and freedom, I would like to remind you of the deep concern of the Arab and Islamic nations over the situation in Afghanistan. We were pleased to hear recent statements by the secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party about your country's intention of withdrawing Soviet forces from Afghanistan within 12 months. We hope that the near future will witness the removal of all obstacles which impede national reconciliation that can restore stability and security in Afghanistan so that this country can resume the march of development and construction as a Non-aligned Movement and a friendly neighbour to the Soviet Union. We have great confidence that you will contribute effectively in achieving that objective.

Mr. President,

DURING all my previous visits to the Soviet Union I was delighted over the understanding which I felt about our problems and our concerns. I have always felt satisfied and content with the constant support we received from your nation. In the same spirit I now look forward to exchanging views with you over matters of interest to the Soviet Union and the Arab World at large.

I AM overwhelmed with a feeling of satisfaction over Jordanian-Soviet relations and we are delighted that these relations are based on a firm foundation of mutual respect and common interest, one that can serve as an example of true cooperation among countries of the world with different economic and social systems.

EVER since Jordan and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in cultural and scientific fields in 1967 and a protocol on economic cooperation in 1969, our relations have continuously witnessed progressive development for the common good.

WE look forward towards benefiting from your advanced expertise in all fields and I am confident that your country's friendly stand in supporting the just causes of the Arab Nation will prompt us to seek constant and serious efforts for expanding scopes of cooperation between the Arab Nation and the Soviet Union in all fields.

Mr. President, I REPEAT my gratitude to you for allowing me the chance to meet you and your colleagues in the Soviet leadership and visiting your great country. I hope that you will allow me and Queen Noor and the people and government of Jordan the chance to welcome you and your wife in Amman to express our people's affectionate feelings towards you and your country. I am pleased, in view of the coming Christmas and the New Year, to convey to you and Mrs. Gromyko and the Soviet people my heartfelt greetings and best wishes on this occasion.

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New effort to net fresh fish in Jordan

By a Reporter

AMMAN — A team of fish farming specialists that includes Dr. Mohammed Yacoub Abbadi, Dr. Ziad Momane of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hussein of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, Dr. Randy Brummett of the Near East Foundation, and independent consultant Hajan Halaseh is guiding the efforts of nine farmers from south Azrak to Al Manshiyah in establishing pond operations that will supply Amman with a delicious variety of fresh fish — tilapia — for dinner from May to December at prices that are affordable for customers and profitable for farmers.

Fish farming is not new in Jordan. Many farmers and landowners have tried their hands at this fascinating business for years, at all too often the cost of such operations far outstripped their earnings. "We don't have a long history of fish culture in this country," explained Dr. Abbadi. "We need to start with small operations using simple technologies so that the farmer can learn to work and his risk will be small."

Now farmers can call upon these specialists to get hands on with the day-to-day problems that confront their particular operations. Farmers have not always welcomed their advice, especially those farmers who may have been misled in the past by exaggerated estimates of huge harvests. With experience, however, these farmers, one of whom has increased his production level from only 13 per cent of capacity to cover 73 per cent of capacity, are learning to trust that the new information is realistic and reliable.

"You can raise fish with a lot of water and a little land, or with a little land and a little water such as we have here in Jordan," Dr. Brummett explains. "It's just a matter of adapting your technology to what's available." Jordanian farmers are combining ingenuity with new approaches and skills acquired during Dr. Brummett's weekly problem-solving sessions to their farms and through 2-weeks of instruction at the Near East Foundation. Next summer, as a direct result of these efforts, Jordanian fish farmers will put an additional 38 tons of tilapia on the market, 32 tons on new farms like south Azrak and Taibeh, and six tons from increasingly efficient farms, according to Dr. Brummett.

The largest pond operation in Jordan, covering 60 dunums, is situated in an oasis 100 kilometres northeast from Am-

man by the South Azrak Cooperative. Like many fish farming operations in Jordan, the south Azrak Cooperative's efforts to raise fish had been losing money. The existing ponds, some overgrown with weeds, and others too deep for aquaculture, had to be rebuilt. With a more practical design for the ponds developed by Mr. Bitar and Dr. Brummett, the cooperative approached the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for help with construction costs.

Two shallow six dunum ponds for raising fingerlings, the young fish, and two deeper 20-dunum ponds for raising market size fish have been scooped from the flat desert earth. "The earth shook and clouds of dust rolled across the land," during the April-August construction process, Dr. Brummett recalled. The excavation was accomplished using 3 excavators, 2 earth movers, and 7 dump trucks, and financed by \$75,000 in assistance from USAID. The South Azrak Cooperative was the first recipient of funding under USAID's new Private Enterprise Resource Assistance (PETRA) programme. Coincidentally, the ponds are fed and drained by an existing canal which was financed by USAID in the 1950s.

Constant desert winds will circulate the water and an aerator system will cover emergencies when plankton are using, instead of producing, oxygen at night and when high late summer temperatures reduce the amount of oxygen the water can store. The ponds will contain a "polyculture" of tilapia and some other species, such as silver carp, as needed, to help control water quality and plant growth.

Tilapia is a fresh water fish native to the Middle East and Africa. Its bone-free firm-fleshed fillet makes it more frequently raised, worldwide, than trout and salmon. Tilapia thrive in warm water with varying degrees of salinity and thus are ideally suited for farming in Jordan. Rapid reproduction and weight gain give farmers a quick return on their investment. The fish increase to market size, 300 grammes and up, in six to eight months. A farmer's profits, however, depend upon managing tilapia's distinctive characteristics.

Male tilapia grow twice as fast as females and are therefore more desirable for fish production. The sex of the fish can be largely determined by adding very small amounts of hormones to the feed for the newly hatched fish, or fry, producing a school of mostly male fish.

Qasr 'Amra offers valued clues to Umayyad culture

Text and photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

THE QASR 'Amra bath house, perhaps Jordan's finest Umayyad "desert castle", is nestled in a broad depression about 85 kilometres east of Amman and 30 kilometres south-west of Azraq. 'Amra's interior walls and ceilings are covered with splendid painted frescoes from the mid-8th Century, with less well preserved fragments or evidence of mosaics, carved stones and marble cladding.

The fresco art is particularly noteworthy today for two reasons: It provides valuable information about the culture and tastes of the Umayyad notables who built these complexes; and it shows the Umayyad culture's clear links with the ancient Classical and Byzantine traditions it had inherited, and with the powerful influences of Iraqi, Persian and other contemporary Asian civilisations to the east.

The 'Amra complex, long known to and used by local nomads, was "re-discovered" by the West when the Czech scholar Alois Musil visited it in 1898. The frescoes were diligently cleaned and preserved in 1971-73 by a Spanish team from the Madrid National Archaeological Museum headed by Martin Almagro.

The 'Amra complex originally comprised the baths, with their audience hall and domestic rooms, and the adjacent hydraulic system, all enclosed within a small walled area. In the hills several hundred metres to the north-east are the remains of a small square, fort-like residential building (or caravanserai) and a watchtower (or mosque), where the staff and troops of the patron of 'Amra probably lived. There are also traces of what some people believe is an ancient dam, and enclosure walls for an agricultural area of some 25 hectares.

The complex was far greener and adorned with water when it was inhabited in the Umayyad era, thanks to its sophisticated water collection and conservation system. This can be appreciated today during a winter visit to 'Amra immediately after a rainfall, when the bathhouse is surrounded by an extensive pool of rainwater, and the adjacent Wadi Butm flows with slow-moving water that penetrates deep into the soil — providing the year-round moisture which sustains the lush green trees along the wadi course.

Though not conclusively dated by inscriptional evidence, Qasr 'Amra is generally thought to have been built during the reign of the Caliph Walid I (705-715 A.D.), who built the great Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, and who may have lived in Azraq and Qastal; some scholars, however, believe it may be the work of his uncle, Walid II (743-744 A.D.).

Outside the main entrance of the baths is 'Amra's hydraulic system, which provided water both for the baths and for the caravans that called at 'Amra on their journeys along the ancient route that linked Azraq and 'Amra with Kharana, Mushash, Mushatta, Muwaqqar, Qastal and Amman. The water system still exhibits its three main components: A 40-metre-deep circular stone well that penetrates the underground water table, a 14-cubic-metre tank, and remains of the "saqiya", or water-lifting apparatus marked by the circle walked by a beast of burden to raise the water from the well. The water passed through ceramic pipes to the baths or the adjacent outdoor tank, and drainpipes from within the baths carried wastewater to a cesspool outside the complex.

A simple door leads into the spacious, triple-aisle audience hall and its alcove, which are attached to the baths proper. The three aisles are formed by two slightly pointed transverse arches, and are roofed by three fine tunnel-vaults. A small, shallow pool rests in the north-east corner of the audience hall.

The unplastered lower part of the walls may have been covered in marble. Facing the door is a small alcove with its own tunnel-vault, flanked by two smaller rooms roofed with tunnel-vaults which end in small semi-domes. The floors of these two small rooms were covered in mosaics.

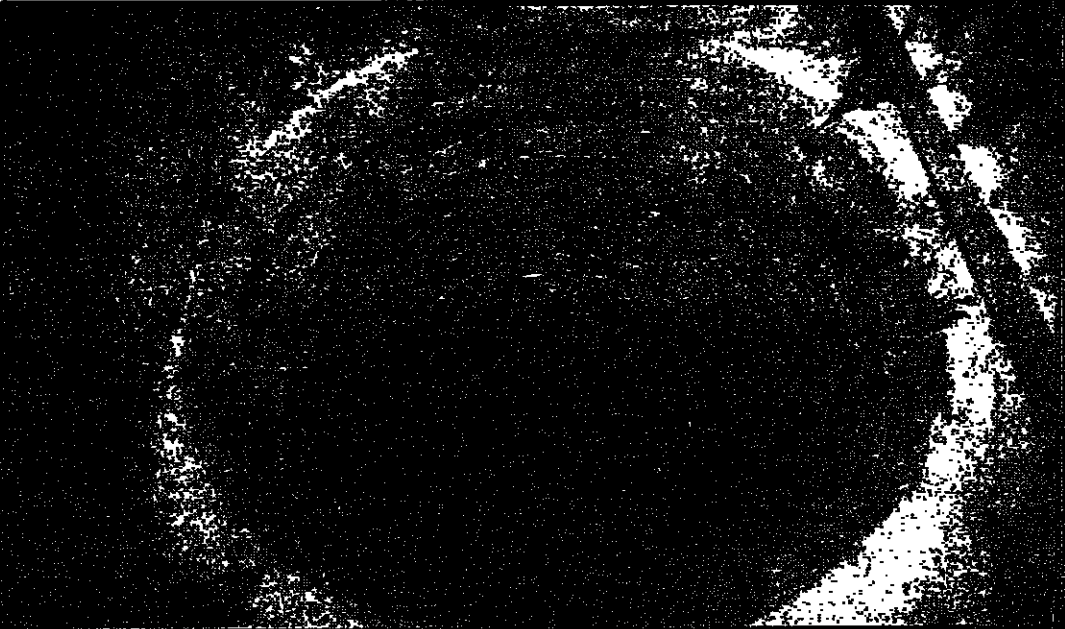
The audience hall's walls and ceilings are covered in relatively well preserved painted frescoes depicting a variety of scenes, which we now know were typical Umayyad baths decoration: Hunting scenes with wild onagers being driven into a net-trap by men on galloping horses; nude or scantily clothed women in bath-



Qasr 'Amra (right) with its covered well at left.



Some of the pastoral scenes on the walls of the baths, including animals (top and bottom of photo), and (centre) a bear playing a stringed instrument with a clapping monkey to the right.



'Amra's stone-built water well.

ing scenes, including a tall woman who may have been the favourite concubine of the master of 'Amra; athletes exercising in an outdoor setting; and the famous Fresco of the Six Kings, with Greek and Arabic inscriptions under busts of Caesar (as the Byzantine emperor was called then), the Sasanian King Kishra, Roderic (the last Visigothic king of Spain killed by Walid I in 711 A.D.), the Negus (King) of Abyssinia, and two other busts thought to depict the emperor of China and the Khagan, or princely ruler of the Turks.

The audience hall, used for artistic displays, parties, social gatherings, meals, greeting visitors and the occasional official meeting, also has fresco paintings of reclining female figures representing Victory, attended by servants and flanked by peacocks; heavy-set wrestlers; pairs of birds; nude women; a flying angel overlooking a seated woman with a pensive gaze; a pacing lion; a woman dancer accompanied by a lutenist and a flutist; another

dancing woman with two maidens carrying bowls or medallions; a seated musician playing a stringed instrument; a very Byzantine-looking enthroned ruler surrounded by birds and flanked by two attendants carrying fly-whisks over the throne; a poorly preserved nilotic scene; human busts; perched birds; assorted standing, seated and reclining women, some carrying bouquets of flowers or a cornucopia-like vessel with a bird perched on top; a man with a golden light beard and moustache carrying a staff; saluqi hounds wearing necklets energetically chasing some hapless onagers; the captured onagers being speared and disembowelled by the hunters; a person kneeling before a man with a sword; a woman personification of poetry and two other women symbolising history and philosophy (according to the accompanying Greek inscriptions); a lion attacking a horse; embracing figures in fluttering scarves; hunters subduing an onager; and 32 individual panels de-

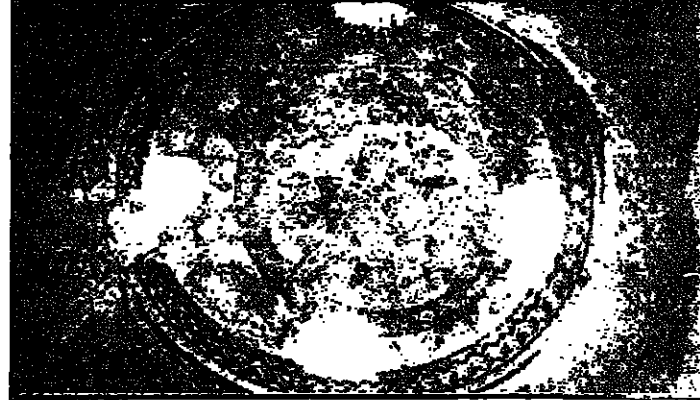
picting craftsmen in various stages of the construction process, including blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, stone-cutters and other labourers.

The entrance/alcove area leads into the baths proper, which were typical of the period. They consisted of the changing room (apodyterium), with a plastered bench along its south and east walls and a tunnel-vault roof; the moderately hot room (tepidarium) with its raised floor to allow the warm air to circulate beneath the bathers, and a square recess (lower than the floor of the rest of the room) which may have been a bath; and the hot room (calidarium), which was closest to the furnace and was roofed with a dome with four windows resting on pendentives.

The small holes on the walls of the calidarium once held the decorative marble slabs that covered the walls. Two recesses slightly below floor level also served as bath tubs or basins for the bathers. East of the calidarium is a tunnel-vaulted passage



The triple-apsed audience hall, whose walls and ceiling are covered in well preserved 8th Century Umayyad frescoes.



The hemispherical dome fresco with the Zodiac symbols, on the ceiling of the bath's hot room.

which connected with the furnace and the open-air stoke room, and above the passage was the water tank that supplied the calidarium.

The frescos in the baths display an equally wide variety of motifs and styles, including an eros representation pointing towards a contemplative figure apparently viewing two covered bodies, perhaps representing a death scene: three busts thought to represent the three ages of man (childhood, youth and old age); a nude female gazing towards a man; assorted pastoral scenes (reminiscent of the pastoral scenes in the Byzantine mosaics that had covered many churches in the area in the centuries before and during the Umayyad era), including depictions of a deer scratching its head, long-necked birds, gazelles, and a seated bear playing a guitar-like stringed instrument, next to a standing monkey clapping his front paws; a woman dancing to the accompaniment of a flutist; several bathing scenes with women, children and babies; vine scrolls; a pacing lion; and two hunters behind a fleeing hare.

In the innermost calidarium, or hot room, is what many consider to be 'Amra's most pleasing combination of architecture and art — the room's small dome, presented as the Dome of Heaven, and painted with a representation of the constellations of the northern hemisphere accompanied by the signs of the Zodiac. This is thought to be the earliest surviving attempt by man to represent the vault of heaven on a hemispherical, instead of a flat, surface as had been frequently done by preceding civilisations. Visible are Ursa Minor and Major (the Great Bear and Little Bear) separated by the tail of Dragon.

Andromeda, Cassiopeia, the Sygnus with Hercules and Serpentarius, Sagittarius, Scorpius, the Dolphin, Capricorn, Aquarius, the Twins and Orion.

The rich variety of themes and artistic styles at 'Amra include clearly identifiable strains of several civilisations that influenced the land of Jordan in antiquity, including Greco-Roman, Nabataean, Byzantine, Iraqi, Persian and perhaps even Indian styles and motifs. We know from medieval literary evidence, however, that the extensive 'Amra frescoes were not particularly lavish or unusual; rather, they reflected the artistic repertoire that any quality bathhouse of the day was expected to display — in order, as Dr. Ghazi Bisheh has pointed out, "to stimulate the senses and to invigorate the powers of the body: The animal, the physical and the psychological."

Oleg Graber has suggested that the ascendant Umayyad aristocracy of the early 8th Century A.D. drew upon the land's varied and ancient cultural heritage to produce a rich new iconographic repertoire, which Bisheh in turn shows was clearly rooted in the Greco-Syrian tradition.

Dr. Fawzi Zayadine of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities says that "'Amra's frescoes can be considered an artistic Renaissance of Hellenistic art in the 8th Century, stimulated by the will and sensibility of the Umayyads..." Martin Almagro and his Spanish colleagues, who worked on the frescoes for three years, called 'Amra "a key monument for the understanding of early Arabic art, which is still in a transitional state between the personality of Byzantine culture and the discovery of its own inspiration."

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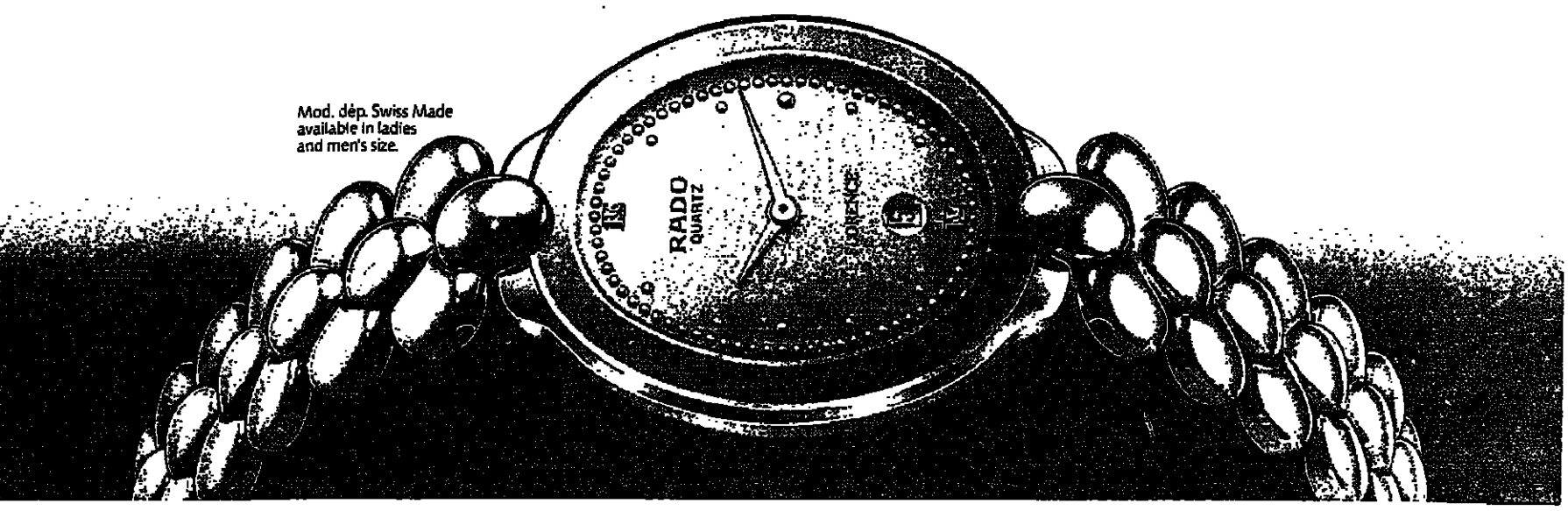
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Seoul confident of boycott-free Olympics

SEOUL (R) — Elated Seoul Olympic organisers, with acceptances in their hands from two east bloc nations, predicted on Tuesday they will host the first boycott-free summer games since 1972.

Kim Chong-Ha, president of the (South) Korean Olympic Committee, told reporters Hungary and East Germany officially notified Seoul of their participation, the first east bloc states to do so, bringing the number of acceptances to 115.

"Our country welcomes these declarations wholeheartedly," Kim added, "and we are now sure that all 167 members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will take part."

The president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), Park Seh-Jik, also sounded a jubilant note to correspondents in Seoul now that the threat of an east bloc boycott was apparently lifted.

"I have very good indications

that all the eastern bloc countries are going to come, including the Soviet Union and China," he said.

Asian and Western diplomats in Seoul generally agreed that the other main allies of Communist North Korea would all have signalled their acceptance by the IOC's Jan. 17 deadline. They were less clear what attitude Pyongyang, Seoul's sworn enemy, would like.

SLOOC's Park said that, despite the deadline, "our policy is that we will keep our door open (for North Korean participation) until the eve of the Olympics... perhaps they can make an about-face."

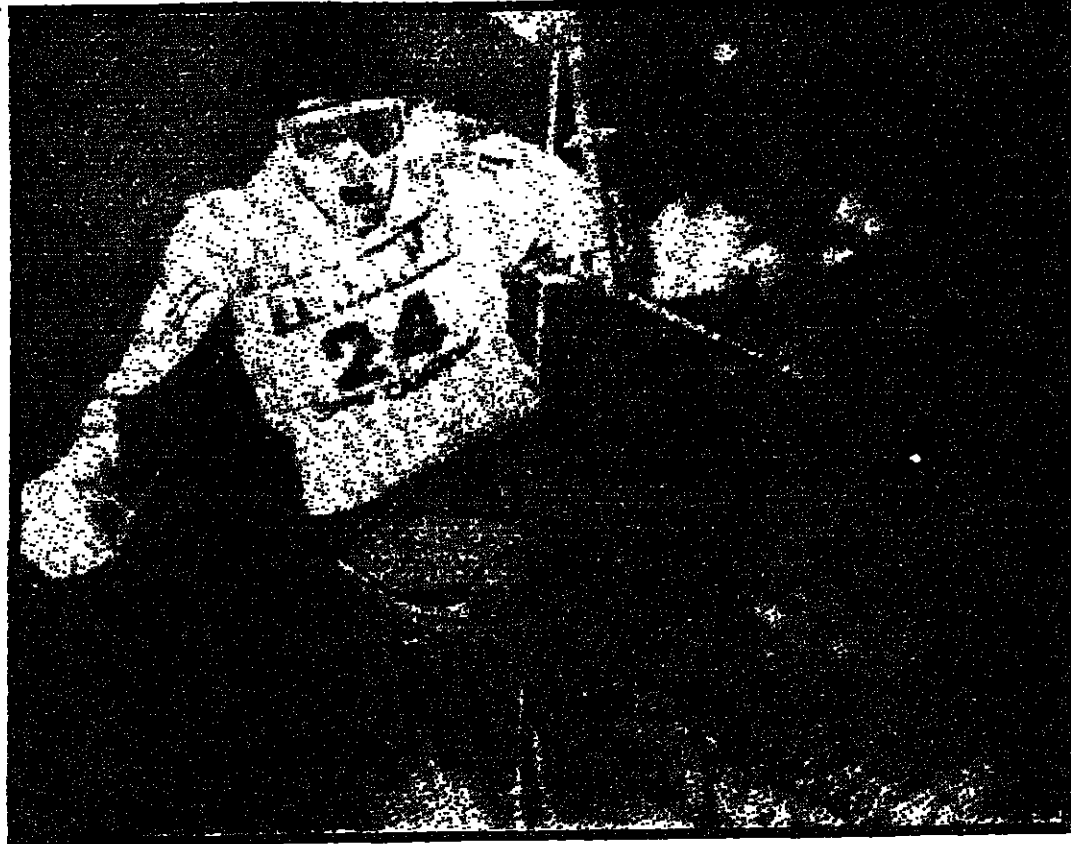
But he said Seoul authorities were capable of foiling any sabot-

age threat against the games by a disgruntled Pyongyang.

Asked if last month's destruction of a South Korean airliner, apparently by a terrorist bomb, would affect Seoul's Olympic "open door" policy towards North Korea, Park said that, despite many indications, there was no proof Pyongyang was involved.

Even if there were, he added, whether it would affect negotiations between North and South was another matter. "This is an affair of the IOC, and the Olympic ideal transcends all other rivalries."

Fears of a possible east bloc boycott arose several years ago when an angry North threatened to ask its friends to stay away unless the IOC reversed its 1981 decision giving the games to the South Korean capital, and agreed to split the events equally between Seoul and Pyongyang.



Alberto Tomba: "This was the best race of the season"

SKIING

Swiss dominate World Cup

BORMIO, Italy (AP) — Swiss skiers swept the three top spots in the men's and women's World Cup parallel slaloms staged here Tuesday in a show of solidarity with this Alpine area ravaged last summer by floods.

Defending World Cup champion Pirmin Zurbriggen won the men's event, defeating teammate Joel Gaspoz in the two-heat final, while another Swiss, Martin Hangl, beat Austrian Roland Pfeifer for third place.

Brigitte Oertli won an all-Swiss women's final against Corinne Schmidhauser. Teammate Michelle Figini, an Olympic downhill champion, outpaced West German Christa Kinzhofer for third place.

The two races did not count toward individual standings, but added points for nations in World Cup rankings.

Italian ace Alberto Tomba, who has won five times in six races, leads the men's standings

with 125 points, ahead of Zurbriggen with 91 points. Austrians Guenther Mader and Hubert Strolz are third and fourth respectively with 45 and 42 points.

Tomba, who was eliminated by Pfeifer in the quarterfinals of the parallel competition after he strained a back muscle, said he hoped to win, in 1988, "as many races as I can so far this season."

Asked about prospects for the upcoming winter Olympics, the 21-year-old skier said he'd be seeking "a different metal" than the bronze he won in the giant slalom at last February's world championships in Crans Montana.

But Tomba also said that Zurbriggen remains a favourite for the overall title, noting:

"He is making points in any race and can add points from the downhill, which I am not doing."

Zurbriggen, an all-rounder from Saas-Almagell who won four medals in Crans Montana, reached the finals of the parallel by defeating in quick succession Italy's Carlo Gerosa and his Swiss teammates Hans Pieren and Mar-

tin Hangl.

Tuesday's victory was Zurbriggen's first this season. In the world championships held in Bormio two years ago, he won two gold medals and a silver.

Zurbriggen finished second in two previous cup downhills and was shut out by Tomba and by Austrian Helmut Mayer in three giant slaloms and three slaloms.

Third-place finisher Figini, who won a downhill and a Super-G in Leukerbad, Switzerland, last week, tops the women's standings with 92 points, ahead of Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa of Spain and Austrian Anita Wachter, who have 75 and 70 points respectively.

Women will resume World Cup competition with a giant slalom in Megeve, France, on Jan. 10 while the next men's event will be a downhill in Schladming, Austria.

For Tuesday's race, the top-placed skiers decided to give their prize money to a "solidarity" fund for this Alpine Valley, known as the Valtellina, where flashfloods and landslides caused massive destruction.

Piquet remains the man to beat

LONDON (R) — World champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil believes he will be the man to beat when he starts his challenge for a fourth drivers' title at the opening Grand Prix of 1988 in Brazil in April.

Piquet, who tested with his new Lotus team for the first time at Estoril in Portugal last week, said: "Even after just one day I had a really good feeling about the team for next year."

"The car ran very well. Obviously, at this stage, I have a lot to learn. The Lotus is very similar to the Williams and driving it gives me a lot of confidence for next season."

"I have set myself the goal of becoming world champion for a fourth time in 1988. I really don't see why I shouldn't do it again."

Piquet, 35, left the Williams team at the end of the 1987 season in which he resisted the challenge of his British Williams team-mate Nigel Mansell to take the title.

He also won the title in 1981 and 1983.

Piquet spent a week with his new team, learning about the car

and getting to know his colleagues.

Mansell, whose challenge for the 1987 title ended when he crashed during practice for the Japanese Grand Prix, hopes to be fit to resume driving a Formula One car again by the end of January or early February.

Mansell injured his spine in the accident in Japan.

His new Williams team-mate, Italian Riccardo Patrese, was one of another eight drivers to test at Estoril, including Benetton pair Thierry Boutsen of Belgium and Italian Alessandro Nannini, the team's new signing from Minardi, who has replaced Teo Fabi.

Patrese's Williams was powered by one of the team's new Judd engines. Last season, they were powered by Honda who will be supplying Lotus and McLaren in 1988.

The week was devoted to intensive chassis, engine and tyre testing with Benetton using turbo-powered Ford Engines.

Benetton, who recently signed an exclusive engine contract with Ford for the next two seasons, will be joining the normally-aspirated 3.5 litre-engined teams in 1988.

Swedes boost tennis dynasty

By Robert Philip
Reuter

GOTHENBURG, Sweden — Barring the unforeseen, the Swedish tennis dynasty founded by Bjorn Borg in the 1970s will survive 1990 and beyond.

For while the Borg-inspired Davis Cup win of 1975 was due almost entirely to one 18-year-old's prodigious talent, Sweden's fourth victory, which they completed against India on Sunday was a team triumph.

But it is the relative youthfulness of the Swedish squad which must spread despondency throughout world tennis.

Mats Wilander, who won his two singles for the loss of just 10 games in five sets, is 23, as is his doubles partner Joakim Nystrom, leaving Anders Jarryd as the grand old man of Swedish tennis at 26.

World number two Stefan Edberg, who missed the 5-0 rout

of India through injury, will not be 22 until next month and the Swedes have a total of 10 players aged 26 or under the world's top 40.

Though Ken Rosewall and Lew Hoad were starring for Australia at a younger age, no nation has enjoyed such remarkably young strength in depth and Swedish Davis Cup captain Hasse Olsson was probably guilty of Scandinavian reserve when he looked to the future.

"I can certainly see as far as the next five years when Wilander, Edberg and Kent Carlsson will still all be young men," said Olsson, who has led Sweden to three Davis Cups in five successive finals.

"But I'm hesitant to look beyond then. Of course, we have a lot of young talent which could emerge, but so have Czechoslovakia or the United States say."

It is a remarkable statistic that Sweden used seven different

players in the 1987 Davis Cup competition — the triumphant final quartet plus Carlsson, Mikael Pernfors and Jan Gunnarsson.

In 1988, Ulf Stenlund (20), Jonas Svensson (21) and Peter Lundgren (22) will also be challenging for places on the squad.

Not unnaturally, as in any large group of young athletes, tensions do arise and Wilander, Olsson's on-court lieutenant, paid tribute to the captain when he admitted: "He's the one who makes sure we all remain friends."

But while Edberg publicly backed Olsson's decision not to risk him because of a sprained ankle, words were exchanged in private and the double Australian Open champion was far from happy with his role as spectator.

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Rana refuses comment on inquiry

KARACHI (R) — Controversial umpire Shakoor Rana refused to comment on Tuesday about his appearance before an inquiry committee investigating his role with England captain Mike Gatting earlier this month.

Rana and cricket officials confirmed that the umpire had appeared before a two-man inquiry investigating the incident which threatened England's tour of Pakistan. But they would not comment on the proceedings.

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Economists expect financial difficulties for Saudi Arabia

... Economic growth in Portugal should fall to around three per

Unemployment was likely to edge up to nine per cent of the workforce in 1989 from eight per cent this year, with the current account deficit widening in the next two years due to higher

The survey forecast inflation to

But it added that, "confidence factors apart, the risk of recession is reduced by the fact that interest rates have fallen back to

"This lies more in the consequences of the stock-market crisis for international trade and exchange rates, than in any negative wealth effects on consumer and investment behaviour," it noted.

of a nation's performance in merchandise trade and financial items, would ease to \$41 billion next year from \$44 billion in 1987, and then contract more swiftly to \$32 billion in 1989. Because the initial effect of the mark's rise is to make imports cheaper, the fall in the surplus would only be slight next year, it said.

Adelaide Steamship has been mentioned as a possible bidder for Blue Circle. Adsteam had a 6.85 per cent stake in the company in March but may have sold some since then, dealers

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLUSH LIGHT AVOWAL BICKER
Answer: What that conceited actor does every time he looks in the mirror—TAKES A BOW!

Kim Young-Sam's party to take part in General Assembly polls

SEOUL (R) — Kim Young-Sam, runner-up in last week's South Korean presidential election, said on Tuesday he would sanction election law-reform talks between his party and that of President-Elect Roh Tae-Woo.

However, he repeated his call for popular protests against last Wednesday's poll, which he claims was rigged by Mr. Roh, and vowed to lead a "popular struggle to nullify the result by peaceful and non-violent means."

The Washington-based International Human Rights Law Group, which sent observers to last week's election in South Korea, said on Monday it had no data to support opposition charges of widespread government fraud in the balloting.

The law reform talks are needed before elections can be held for the National Assembly, South Korea's parliament.

Earlier this year, the government and opposition groups agreed to hold parliamentary

elections as soon as possible after the presidential election, but Mr. Kim said they should not be before April.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) wants elections before Mr. Roh takes over the presidency on Feb. 25, the day after incumbent Chun Doo Hwan ends his seven-year term.

"Our party will start negotiations on revising the National Assembly laws later this month or in January," Mr. Kim told a press conference.

He said his Reunification Democratic Party would "emerge as the majority party to help end the military regime."

Mr. Roh has also been urging his supporters to start working for

the assembly elections.

"The next task for our party is to win a majority of seats. Do not be too self-confident, and try hard to gain support from voters," he told a party meeting on Tuesday.

DJP officials said Mr. Roh was likely to announce a party reshuffle to prepare for the elections, and 27 members of the party Central Executive Committee had already resigned to give Mr. Roh a free hand.

Political analysts have said that if Kim Young-Sam and his rival Kim Dae-Jung unite and win an assembly majority, the opposition could limit Mr. Roh's freedom of action as president.

There has been no official reaction yet from Kim Dae-Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PDP).

Post-election violence has flared in several cities in the past five days but in general the country has been calm.

Kim Young-Sam urged the cabinet to resign and take responsibility for what he called unprecedented election irregularities.

Both he and Kim Dae-Jung have admitted the opposition lost in the first direct presidential elections for 16 years partly because of their failure to field a single candidate.

The two Kims together polled 55 per cent of the total votes cast while Mr. Roh took 36.6 per cent.

"I deeply repent for failing to field a single opposition candidate... I apologise for it. But I could have won the election if it had been conducted by fair means," Kim Young-Sam said.

Kim Dae-Jung said on Monday in a front-page newspaper advertisement that the election was rigged. He also apologised for failing to agree on a single candidate.

"My responsibility is too great to endure. And I apologise for it," he said.

2nd round of Nicaraguan ceasefire talks called off

SANTO DOMINGO (R) — A second round of Nicaraguan peace talks was called off on Tuesday after U.S.-backed contra rebels refused to meet two foreigners appointed to negotiate a ceasefire on behalf of the left-wing Sandinista government.

"We have reached an impasse," Roman Catholic Church mediator Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo told reporters after seven hours of indirect talks late on Monday night failed to produce agreement on how to arrange face-to-face talks.

He said the rebels had refused to meet West German Politician Hans-Juergen Wischnewski and American lawyer Paul Richter without the presence of at least one official of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front.

The government, meanwhile, rejected participation of any official in direct negotiations.

The cardinal said he hoped each side would reconsider. No further meetings were scheduled and the church delegation would return to Managua as planned on

Tuesday, he added.

Meanwhile President Daniel Ortega said Nicaraguan government troops are pursuing contra rebels as they flee for the Honduran border after attacking mining towns in north eastern Nicaragua.

Mr. Ortega told the Nicaraguan congress in a speech on Monday that government troops had driven the rebels from two towns but were still fighting the contras in a third, Bonanza.

He said government troops were chasing the rebels as they fled toward Honduras after attacking the towns of Rosita and Siuna on Sunday. The towns are located about 65 kilometres from the Honduran border and about 240 kilometres north east of Managua.

The Nicaraguan Defence Ministry said on Monday that 23 government soldiers and 24 contra rebels were killed in the fighting over the three towns. At least 53 civilians wounded in Siuna, it said.

Kenya-Uganda border reopens to vehicle traffic

NAIROBI (R) — Vehicles began moving across the Kenya-Uganda border on Tuesday, eight days after it was closed by an outbreak of shooting between the two countries' security forces.

Police sources and people living at the border told Reuters by telephone that trucks from Uganda and three countries such as Rwanda, Burundi and Zaïre began crossing the border at Malaba.

The border had been closed since deteriorating relations between Kenya and Uganda erupted into three days of clashes last week in which at least 15

people were killed.

The Kenyan port of Mombasa is the main outlet to the sea for Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda and there is also considerable traffic for eastern Zaïre.

Most of their fuel arrives through Kenya and despite fuel rationing all filling stations in Kampala ran out of petrol over the weekend.

Ugandan Railway officials and shipping sources in Mombasa said more than 5,000 tonnes of Ugandan imports had piled up in Kenyan railway sidings awaiting the resumption of wagon ferry services across Lake Victoria.

Son Sann to join talks if Hanoi pledges quick pullout

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Kampuchean resistance leader Son Sann said Tuesday he will participate in talks with the Vietnamese Kampuchean government if Hanoi pledges to withdraw all troops from Kampuchea as soon after the talks as possible.

Son Sann clarified his position on talks held this month between another resistance leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Son Sann's group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNPLF), has joined Sihanouk's forces and those of the Khmer Rouge in a coalition bat-

ting the Phnom Penh government and an estimated 140,000 Vietnamese troops. Sihanouk and Hun Sen have said all four Kampuchean parties should participate in future talks.

"I wish to be able to participate in a personal capacity in a meeting between the Kampuchean parties if Vietnam is attending," Son Sann, a former prime minister, said in the statement issued by his Bangkok office.

The United Nations recognises the resistance coalition as Kampuchea's government and has overwhelmingly passed annual resolutions calling for an immediate Vietnamese withdrawal and U.N.-supervised elections

14 killed in U.S. helicopter crash

NEW ORLEANS (R) — A helicopter slammed into an oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico and exploded on Monday, killing 14 people and critically injuring the lone survivor, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

The Aerospatiale Puma helicopter crashed as it was landing to bring in a drilling crew for a two-week Christmas stint, according to officials at Petroleum Helicopters Inc. (PHI) in Lafayette, Louisiana, which owned and operated the helicopter.

A PHI spokeswoman said there were 13 passengers, a pilot and co-pilot aboard the helicopter, but the company withheld the identities of the dead and injured until relatives could be notified. The lone survivor was a passenger, she said.

Rig worker Dudley Forrestall said the tail of the helicopter seemed to clip the rig's landing platform before it crashed onto the rig itself and exploded.

Forrestall said of the lone survivor: "I saw him crawling out of the fire. He was still burning all over. God help him."

The PHI spokeswoman said there were no other casualties aboard the rig.

3 convicted in New York racial death

NEW YORK (R) — Three white youths were convicted of manslaughter on Monday and another was acquitted in the death of a black man in a racial clash that attracted international attention.

Two of the youths who had been charged with murder were convicted on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

"Murderer, murderer," a spectator yelled when he heard the verdict. He was escorted from the courtroom by court officers.

The jury deliberated for 12 days before reaching its verdict in the highly publicised case.

All four were accused of chasing Michael Griffiths, a 23-year-

old black, onto a busy highway that cuts through the all-white district where he was killed by a passing car on Dec. 20, 1986.

The two youths who had been charged with murder were Scott Kern, 18, and Jon Lester, 18. They were found guilty of manslaughter along with Jason Ladone, 17.

Michael Pirrone, 18, was acquitted of all charges.

Kern, Lester and Ladone were also convicted of assault.

According to witnesses, Griffiths was running across the highway in the Howard Beach neighbourhood in the borough of

Queens to escape a gang of white youths who had confronted him and two other blacks outside a pizza parlour.

A second black, Cedric Sandford, 37, was beaten with a baseball bat, tree limbs and a tyre lever.

A third black, Timothy Grimes, 19, escaped unhurt after pulling out a knife to keep a gang of white teenagers at bay.

The encounter began when a car driven by the blacks broke down in Howard Beach.

The incident was the worst racial attack in New York City in years and sparked racial tension.

BBC apologises for leaking queen's speech

LONDON (R) — The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) apologised on Monday for an unprecedented leak of Queen Elizabeth's embargued Christmas message and said its royal reporter would be transferred to another job.

A BBC statement said court correspondent Michael Cole, 44, gave other reporters details of the pre-recorded television address, which attacked Irish nationalist guerrillas, on the assumption that the information would not be published.

But six national newspapers

broke a 35-year-old protocol by printing details on Saturday of the address, which will be broadcast to Commonwealth countries on Christmas Day.

"The BBC apologised today for the breach of the embargo on the queen's Christmas broadcast by one of its correspondents," the BBC said in a statement.

Mr. Cole told reporters: "I have never been a mole (secret informant) and I never shall be... from the very moment I knew my confidentiality was being betrayed I told the BBC the full facts."

"My hands are clean... I acted with honour, whatever others may have done," he said.

The newspapers said the queen attacked the Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing of a memorial service last month in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, in which 11 people were killed.

James Whitaker, who wrote a front-page story based on Cole's comments in the tabloid Daily Mirror, regretted the incident. "We have betrayed that man in the most disgusting manner and I hope we can live with ourselves," he said.

Thatcher vows to fight on despite Spycatcher defeat

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher vowed to fight to the end in her bid to ban publication of former secret agent Peter Wright's memoirs in Britain despite a setback in the high court on Monday.

"Our duty as a government is to see that people who work in

the security services don't divulge secrets... We shall continue to take that (case) to the highest possible court of appeal," Mrs. Thatcher said in an interview with British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news.

The highest legal body in Britain is the House of Lords, the upper house of parliament.

China jails U.S.-educated student

PEKING (R) — China has jailed a U.S.-educated student for two years for inciting campus protests and accused a dissident Chinese magazine based in New York of "betraying the motherland," the official media said on Tuesday.

Yang Wei, 32, for "conducting demagogical propaganda for counter-revolutionary ends" during China's wave of demonstrations calling for democracy and freedom late in 1986. People's Daily said.

Tamil rebel hit man caught in Colombo

COLOMBO (R) — Intermecine fighting among Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's north and east has spilled over into the capital where three men have been killed and a hit man has been captured, police officials said on Tuesday.

Police said a man armed with an automatic weapon shot Tamil guerrilla leader Nagarathnam Sivasankar on Monday at the capital's Welawatta area, also known as "little Jaffna" because many Tamils live there.

Police said the victim was an area leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, where about 800,000 Tamils live.

A senior police official said the gunman gave up after a chase and later confessed that he was sent from Mannar, in the north, by the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam to kill all Tiger leaders in the capital.

Nagarathnam was the third Tamil man shot dead in Welawatta. All were killed with the same calibre bullets and police have not ruled out the possibility that the same person carried out all the shootings.

"The rivalry among the Tamil rebels has been brought down to Colombo," the police official said.

He said there were about 500 youths living in Welawatta and in Kotahena, another Tamil area in Colombo, who arrived recently from Jaffna and were suspected of having links with the Tigers and three other rival factions.

Military officials said 12 Tigers were killed and 10 wounded by Indian soldiers in clashes on Sunday during a cordon and search operation in Jaffna.

About 35 Tiger members were also captured, they said.

U.N. Assembly approves budget

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly has suspended its 42nd annual session after approving a record \$1.769 billion budget for the two-year period 1988-1989 and urging all members to pay their dues on time.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar had proposed a total of \$1.68 billion for the next two years.

But extra cash had to be budgeted due to inflation and a fall in the value of the dollar, resulting in higher operating costs for U.N. centres.

The vote on the budget was 146 to one, with three abstentions.

Israel cast the only negative vote, saying nearly \$9 million would go for what it considered anti-Israeli activities and because it had from the start been excluded from the U.N. Economic

and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The United States, Australia and Japan cast the abstentions, feeling the budget was bigger than warranted and that much of the inflationary extras could have been absorbed.

When the assembly two years ago approved a \$1.663 billion budget for 1986-1987 the United States and most of the Soviet Bloc voted against it, as they had done for several years.

The session, which opened on Sept. 15 and broke a week late for the year-end holidays, was addressed by 13 heads of state, 10 heads of government and 108 foreign ministers.

The assembly was suspended rather than adjourned because it may reconvene some time in 1988 to deal with the organisation's

mounting financial problems.

These are largely due to the failure of some members, including the United States, the biggest contributor, to pay their U.N. budget dues in full and on time.

Although assessed 25 per cent of the budget, the United States has so far paid only \$100 million of its 1987 assessed contribution of \$212 million, partly due to Washington's own budget tightening and partly to encourage the implementation of a package of reforms approved by the Assembly last year.

A decision about reconvening will be made by the Assembly President Peter Florin, who is an East German deputy foreign minister, in consultation with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and the chairman of the regional groups.

Stalin hid millions of deaths in '30s — report

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet magazine says Josef Stalin altered census figures in the 1930s, hiding millions of deaths that resulted from poor harvests and his rapid industrialisation and collectivisation of farming.

An article in the weekly magazine Ogonyok by demographer Mark Tolts was another blow to Stalin's legacy and appeared to make the strongest case yet in the official press that his policies were partially to blame for the famine.

Western scholars have blamed Stalin's policies for millions of deaths in the early 1930s and have said the suffering of that period was perhaps worse than the better-known purges later in the decade.

But previously the Soviets have attributed the suffering, which was especially severe in the breadbasket regions of the northern Caucasus and the Ukraine,

on a crop failure.

Ogonyok, which has been in the forefront of Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of greater openness on some issues, published the article in its latest edition.

Farmers were forced onto collective farms beginning in 1929. Ogonyok said the Ukraine and the northern Caucasus region had an extremely poor harvest in 1932, just as Stalin was demanding heavy requisitions of grain to sell abroad to finance his industrialisation programme.

"Hunger gripped first of all that part of the population of the country which normally fed it. Children suffered first. Whole families died in the villages. It is known that in order to fulfill the plan in those difficult circumstances in many places all the grain was called for procurement, without exception," it said.

Soviet purchases of machinery and equipment, required by Stalin for his industrialisation drive,

made up about one-third of the world exports in 1931 and almost half in 1932, Ogonyok said. "But what could we sell in exchange? Just a few things, including grain."

In 1933, milk production was no higher than it had been during the height of the Russian civil war 12 years earlier because many cattle died, Ogonyok said.

In a speech marking the 70th anniversary of Soviet power in early November, Mr. Gorbachev sharply criticised Stalin's "enormous and unforgivable crimes," but said the policy of rapid industrial growth and collectivisation of agriculture of the early 1930s was the only path the Soviet Union could have followed.

Ogonyok said the difficulties of the period have been covered over for decades in official history by the formula "difficulties of the period of industrialisation and collectivisation."

COLUMNS 7&8

Gold most expensive on Christmas list

NEW YORK (AP) — At Monday's prices gold would have been the most expensive item on the Christmas shopping list of the three wise men who according to the Bible brought gifts to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem. The three magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold was quoted at \$480 a troy ounce in New York on Monday. Myrrh costs \$2.25 a pound in New York this week and the price of frankincense was \$2.10 a pound. A troy ounce is 31.1 grammes and 2.2 pounds equals one kilo.

Theft of 2,249 manhole covers brings chaos

PEKING (R) — Thieves who stole 2,249 manhole covers to sell back to government departments have brought chaos to the streets of a north China city, an official newspaper said on Tuesday. Gaping holes in roads left by the gang in Xianyang, Shaanxi province, are a grave menace to night-time cyclists and have cost the state more than 120,000 yuan (\$32,000) in replacements, the China Legal News said. The newspaper said a child who fell into one drain had almost been killed and that sewers blocked by rubbish thrown into open manholes had overflowed. The thieves keep some of the covers for their own use, the newspaper said, but they also use connections to sell most back to government departments.

Burmese seek to rid capital of rats

RANGOON (R) — Burma's authorities, normally coy about social problems in their tightly-controlled society, have called for a pied piper to rid Rangoon of rats. The official Vanguard newspaper, in an editorial headlined "Pied Piper, Wherefore Art Thou?", blamed rats for damaging pavements, the foundation of buildings and telephone lines. "There is no building free from these animals," it said on Tuesday. Rangoon, a once state capital built during colonial British rule, has steadily decayed from neglect under post-war military rule, during which the once-prosperous country has become one of Asia's poorest. "Entire (rat) communities make their homes where there are sources of food," the Vanguard added, saying the rats thrived because homes and workplaces were not kept free of rubbish. The paper said there was an urgent need for a pied piper — the legendary figure who attracted rats from the German town of Hamelin by playing on a pipe.

'Hole' found in antarctic ozone layer

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian scientists conducting experiments in the antarctic say they have discovered a mysterious 'hole' in the earth's ozone layer over the icy continent. "This is one of the most challenging things we have ever come across in atmospheric chemistry," Dr. H.P. Rajan, a member of India's sixth expedition to the antarctic, which returned recently, told the Press Trust of India (PTI) on Tuesday. "Whatever the source is, we need to understand it, because this is a change in the ozone that is of absolutely unprecedented proportions," Dr. Rajan said. Scientists have warned that pollution is destroying the ozone layer, the Earth's main shield against the sun's ultraviolet rays, and could lead to a rise in cases of skin cancer. Dr. Rajan was quoted as saying a major worry was that the cause of the 'hole' is still unclear. He said scientists discovered it while launching balloons to the atmosphere above antarctica but gave no other details.

Law to make judges more accountable

ROME (R) — The Italian Chamber of Deputies on Monday approved a draft law under which judges could be liable to heavy civil damages for making mistakes. The law, which has been strongly criticised by magistrates, passed by 384 votes to 74 with 14 abstentions and now goes to the Senate for further consideration. Justice Minister Giuliano Vassalli said after the vote that every part of the law had been subject to heated debate. The draft was drawn up following referendums in November in which Italians voted overwhelmingly to make the judicial system more accountable to the public for its mistakes. The draft passed on Monday would make the state responsible for paying damages to a citizen in the case of major mistakes by judges but in turn enables the state to reclaim damages from the judiciary equalling up to one third their annual salary. The law also lays down the grounds for claims against the magistrates and the possible sanctions to be applied as well as specific guarantees to protect judicial independence. "Only those judges who hide behind political curtains have anything to fear," said Liberal Alfredo Biondi. Magistrates have argued that the politicians are trying to shift the blame for bad laws onto them and fear judges may become vulnerable to rich and powerful groups such as organised crime or even the politicians themselves.

Painting of nude wins prize

PEKING (AP) — A painting including a nude has won a prize at a Chinese art show for the first time, an official newspaper said Tuesday. The China Daily said "The Earth," painted by Wei Ershen and Hu Jiancheng of north east China's Liaoning province, was one of 15 paintings cited at a national oil painting exhibition in Shanghai. The paper did not further describe the painting. But it quoted Ge Weimo, a leading member of the Chinese Artists' Association, as saying, "although The Earth is not perfect in its proportion and composition, it gives us a sense of purity with a simple, implicit style." The paper said one abstract painting also won a prize at the exhibition, which features 439 oil paintings. Communist China long has frowned on abstract painting and suppressed the depiction of nudes on the grounds that such art showed decadent influences.

Power cut blacks out religious drama

NEW DELHI (R) — Flushed with righteous anger, viewers in North India set fire to an electricity company office and blocked a road after a power cut blacked out their favourite television Gods on Sunday, the United News of India reported. The exploits of the Hindu God, told in the ancient epic the Ramayana, are compulsive Sunday morning viewing for millions of Indians. Scores of people blocked the Jammu-Pathankot Highway for about two hours to protest against the power cut.

16 escape injury in belly landing

YUMA, Arizona (AP) — A Skywest airlines commuter plane landed on its belly Sunday after its landing gear locked up, and all 16 people aboard escaped injury, officials said. The 21-seat, twin-propeller plane suffered only minor damage in the 2,100-foot (640-metre) slide down a runway at Yuma International Airport, said Ron Reber, a Skywest vice president at the airline's headquarters in St. George, Utah. Flight 5750 was on approach to Phoenix Sky Harbour Airport with 14 passengers and a crew of two when the pilot, Charles Wanless, was unable to lower part of the landing gear. Reber said, Wanless flew the Fairchild Metroliner past the control tower at Sky Harbour to confirm that the gear had not shaken free and agreed to fly on to Yuma to use up as much fuel as possible and avoid tying up the Phoenix airport. Reber said, Crash crews from the Yuma Marine Air Station, which shares two runways with the airport, stood by as the plane landed on its belly, but there were no flames from the slide, and passengers were evacuated safely, said Warrant Officer Tim Bennett, chief spokesman for the air station.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Thomas Nelson Publishers Inc.

AS EASY AS MAKING A MOVIE
Neither vulnerable. South deals
NORTH
♦ 10 9 7 4
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ K 7 3
♠ 2

WEST EAST
♦ K Q 5 ♦ J 2
♥ A 7 4 3 ♥ J 9
♦ Q 8 ♦ 10 9 6 4
♠ K 9 6 3 ♠ Q J 10 8 7

SOUTH
♦ A 8 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ A J 5 2
♠ A 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣
Bridge players at the Fall North American Championships in Atlantic City had a surprise visitor. Omar Sharif was in the country on a promotional tour, and he took a few days off to play some bridge. It did not take him long to come up with a pretty defense in the Swiss Team event.

After a strong no trump opening bid by South and a Jacoby Transfer Bid by North, South became declarer at a contract of two hearts. Sharif led the queen of spades, which by agreement asked his partner,

Tannah Hirsch, president of Goren International, Inc. whether he liked the suit or not. East's defence was discouraging. Declarer won the ace, crossed to the king of dia-

monds in dummy and tried a low trump to the nine and king. Sharif ducked smoothly!

Not surprisingly, declarer continued with a trump to the ten, and the hand collapsed. East won the jack and shifted to the queen of clubs. Declarer took his ace, then used a club ruff as the entry to the table for a diamond finesse. Sharif was delighted to win the queen. Declarer's failure to play on spades made it a certainty that East held the jack, so the hand was an open book. Sharif cashed the ace of trumps and then reverted to a club, forcing the table's last trump. The defenders took the rest of the tricks for down two.

At the other table North used the Stayman Convention over his partner's one no trump opening bid, and as a result Sharif's team mates ended in a contract of two spades. They made nine tricks in that contract, so the Sharif team gained 6 International Match Points on the hand. Had they done as well on the rest of the boards, they would have won the event!